

FREE! FULL £50 VERSION OF ENGENIUS 3 ON THE CD — ENSURES SEARCH ENGINES FIND YOUR SITE

Practical

THE UK'S FASTEST GROWING INTERNET MAGAZINE

ISSUE 37
£3.99
WITH CD ROM

Internet

GETTING ONLINE CHEAPER, FASTER AND EASIER

You're the boss!

Use the Net to work from home — what you need, what it costs and why you'll love it

12 HTML PACKAGES

TRIED, TESTED & RATED

We test a dozen Web site creation programs for ease of use, interactive features and value for money

ON YOUR FREE CD ENGENIUS 3 PROFESSIONAL EDITION

FULL
VERSION
WORTH
£50

Attract a deluge of visitors to your site and make sure it's listed by the Web's leading search engines

• HTML HEAVEN!

Create a fantastic Web site with 10 of the world's best-equipped Web building programs, as tested in this issue; Adobe GoLive 4, Coffee Cup HTML Editor, NetObjects Fusion 4, Adobe PageMill 3, Cool Page v2.0, HoTMetal Pro 6, 1st Page 2000, Cute HTML 1.2, Hot Dog Pro 5 and Homesite 4.01

No Disc?

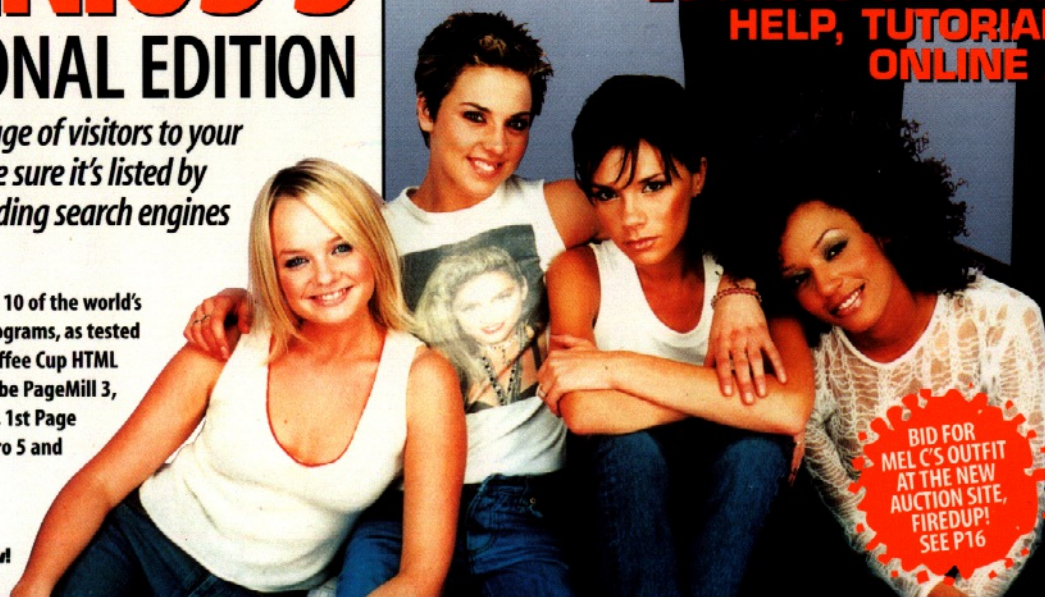
Ask your newsagent for it now!
(Not available outside the UK)



WIN!
FIVE ONLINE
SHOPPING
SPREES WORTH
£250

SPICE UP YOUR SITE

**20 PAGES OF HOME PAGE
HELP, TUTORIALS AND
ONLINE ADVICE**



**BID FOR
MEL'S OUTFIT
AT THE NEW
AUCTION SITE,
FIREDUP!
SEE P16**



9 771366 766022

37

PLUS! World's 100 most useful sites • MP3 players tested • Dreamweaver 3 tutorial

A close-up photograph of a woman's back, showing a tattoo and jewelry. The woman is wearing a dark blue, ribbed, low-cut garment. A thin, silver chain with a small ring is draped across her back. The background is a solid blue color.

www.sexy.co.uk

**Show off a little
with your own
free domain name
and unlimited free
e-mail addresses**

In fact you can afford to show off as much as you like.

With freenetname there are no hidden extras, so as well as your free domain name and e-mail addresses, you'll get 20Mb of free webspace and unlimited free internet access at BT local call rates UK-wide.

Connection is quick and easy, and when you do need a spot of cover, there's always our handy freephone 24 hour technical support.

So get yourself noticed. Visit our website now at www.freenetname.co.uk or call us on freephone 0800 376 6910.



It's free, It's easy, It's yours.

Conditions apply. See website for details.



Welcome...



...to issue 37 of *Practical Internet*. We've another bumper issue for you this month, with the results of the first-ever *Practical Internet* Awards featuring highly.

Unlike other magazines, where so-called 'experts' pick winning sites and ISPs, we've given you the opportunity to decide who scoops the awards. The list of poll toppers, on pages 50-53, makes for some interesting reading.

We also explain how you can use the Net to work from home. Everyone wants to escape the rat race and the 9-5 drudgery. Well now it's easy and it needn't cost you a fortune. See our guide to three complete home office set-ups on pages 27-33.

You'll also find another great cover CD with this issue featuring a full program worth £50. *Engenius 3* will rocket your Web site up the search engine rankings. Enjoy!

Mark Newman, Editor
mnewman@paragon.co.uk

Practical Internet: the mag with a mission

We're here to explain as clearly as possible how you can use the Internet to save yourself time, money and hassle.

Whether you're a complete beginner, an intermediate user or an experienced Net surfer, all our articles are aimed at helping you understand and master the Net. Using step-by-step tutorials, extensive hardware tests, and special product reviews, we're dedicated to providing you the information you need.

We're always ready to help you, so if anything is unclear or you think we're not living up to our promises, please write to us.

Contact The Editor,
Practical Internet, Paragon Publishing, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2JS or email us at pi@paragon.co.uk

Contents

ISSUE THIRTY SEVEN

FEBRUARY 2000

BID FOR
MEL C'S OUTFIT
AT THE NEW
AUCTION SITE,
FIREDUP!
SEE P16



SPICE UP YOUR SITE!

Which of the world's leading HTML packages is best for adding multimedia and interactivity to your site? We put twelve programs head-to-head!

WHAT'S ON THE COVER CD?

SEE PAGE 106 FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE SOFTWARE YOU CAN FIND ON YOUR FREE CD

ENGENIUS 3 PROFESSIONAL EDITION

You've spent months building your Web site, perfecting its appearance and getting it online. Now all you need are some visitors. Getting your site listed in search engines is one important step – but this won't be wildly

successful unless you're ranked among the top 20 on each.

Engenius 3 from PegasoWeb is your answer. It not only gets your site added to the main engines, but also guarantees you a high placing. In no time, your hit counter will be going through the roof! So

how does it work? It cleverly scans an HTML page for you and tells you what to change and where and even how many occurrences of a selected keyword you have to add or delete to alter the site's positioning. Since *Engenius 3* is 'intelligent', it optimises

your HTML document to ensure your site is ranked highly on the specific search engines you want to target. These include AltaVista, Excite, HotBot, Infoseek/Go, Lycos, MSN, Northern Light, WebCrawler and Yahoo! The software usually costs \$79 (£50), but it's

completely free to *Practical Internet* readers this month. Remember that it must be unlocked in order to work without any time or use limits. The only limitation is that you won't get any free upgrades – but hey, it's a fantastic program anyway!

What's inside this issue...



INFONATION

PC alternatives take off



INFONATION

Make sure you keep up-to-date with all the latest happening in the Internet world, along with all our regulars such as Net Watch and The Sludge Report.

THE WORLD'S 100 MOST USEFUL SITES



USEFUL, VERY USEFUL!

The Web is a fantastic resource for finding useful information – the kind of things that you'd usually have to pay for. We present the world's 100 most useful Web sites

HOME



THE I-HOUSE

It's the most wired home in Britain, possibly the world. *Practical Internet* takes a walk around the first ever Internet house where everything is controlled over the Web!

INTERNET EXPLORER 5.5 BETA

It's only a month since Internet Explorer 5.01 was released and now Microsoft has lifted the lid on an even better version. The new browser is only a Beta version, so we wouldn't recommend you ditch your old one just yet,

but it does have a host of attractive new features. It includes support for Dynamic HTML, Java, and the Channel Definition Format (CDF). An AutoSearch feature lets you choose your search engine and display search results in different ways.

CYBER-INFO EMAIL NOTIFY

Cyber-Info EMail Notify is a new email notification utility with a built-in email client that lets you check multiple POP and Webmail accounts for new messages and optionally delete spam. A pop-up message with

sound lets you know that mail has arrived, or you can use various visual effects. You can launch an external mail reader or quickly view, delete, reply, forward and send email without having to load your full email package. It also has a redirection facility.

10 WEB PAGE PACKAGES TO TRY

NetObjects Fusion 4
Adobe GoLive 4
Adobe PageMill 3
CoffeeCup HTML
Cool Page v2.0
HoTMetal Pro 6
1st Page 2000
Cute HTML 1.2
Hot Dog Pro 5
HomeSite 4

WORK FROM HOME

Why trudge to work each morning, struggling through the traffic and fume-filled roads when you can work from home in your own office? We explain how to do it and what it costs

IT'S SHOW TIME!

THE PRACTICAL INTERNET AWARDS 2000



IT'S SHOW TIME!

We gave you the chance to decide which Web sites should win the first-ever *Practical Internet* Awards. Here, we run down the complete list of winners. Have your black tie at the ready...

ISSUE 37

IT'S ALL IN PRACTICAL INTERNET

8 InfoNation

THE LATEST INTERNET NEWS

19 Backchat

READERS COMMENTS

21 Net Shopping

SPEND, SPEND, SPEND!

27 You're the boss!

CREATING A HOME OFFICE

34 Web Watchdog

BEEN RIPPED OFF? WE'LL SORT IT!

36 Useful, very useful!

WORLD'S 100 MOST USEFUL SITES

40 HTML packages tested

12 WEB PAGE PROGRAMS ON TEST

48 Subscription offer

CLAIM ONE OF SEVEN FREEBIES!

50 It's show time!

PRACTICAL INTERNET AWARDS

54 Competitions

WIN GREAT NET PRIZES

57 Home Improvement

CREATE A KILLER WEB SITE

64 The iHouse

UK'S MOST WIRED HOME

71 Site Seer

FOOD, RUGGER AND WEATHER

79 Soft Spot

SOFTWARE NEWS AND TESTS

90 Hardwired

NET HARDWARE NEWS AND TESTS

94 Net Surgery

GET YOUR PROBLEMS SORTED

101 Net Gamer

ONLINE GAMING NEWS, REVIEWS

106 What's on the CD?

FULL CD CONTENTS LISTING

115 Free ISP listings

FREE ISPS HEAD TO HEAD

122 Glossary

BAFFLING NET SPEAK EXPLAINED

129 Next month

WHAT'S COMING IN ISSUE 38

130 FAQs

ITN'S DALJIT DALIWHAL

You understand your products and market. We understand the Internet. Together we can create a tailored solution for all your E-mail, E-commerce and Internet needs.

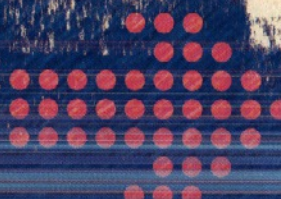
With the increasing pace of change in the world of the web, it is easy to feel left out and left behind. But now the right sort of help is at hand.

At Magic Moments we have our own network and our own resources. We provide mission critical Internet services to some of the best known names in business and we can do the same for you - simply, efficiently and cost effectively. We offer the most comprehensive E-commerce, shopping cart and hosting solutions available and specialise in world-wide domain name registration.

Magic Moments - Our business is to serve you.

Freephone: 0808 100 6200 www.magic-moments.com

1696.251297.27898



an unbeatable

Email Packages:

Email & Web Hosting Packages:

All our Email and Web Hosting packages also include: domain name registration or transfer, daily backups, Smart UPS and technical support.

ALL packages come with FREE Internet connection which benefits Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children.

Magic EBasic £40pa

- Unlimited Email addresses
- Single Email routing

Price excludes naming authority fees

Magic EPlus £75pa

- Unlimited Email addresses
- 10 POP Email boxes
- Remote control panel via web interface
- Multiple Email routing

Price excludes naming authority fees

Email & Web Hosting Packages:

Magic SoHo £130pa

- 30 MB web/hosting space
- Unlimited Email addresses
- Single Email routing
- Full FTP access and personal CGI-BIN
- Remote control panel via web interface
- Full graphical site statistics

Price excludes naming authority fees

Magic Standard £155pa

- 50MB web/hosting space
- Unlimited Email addresses
- 10 POP Email boxes
- Multiple Email routing
- Full FTP access and personal CGI-BIN
- Remote control panel via web interface
- Full graphical site statistics

Price excludes naming authority fees

New NT Hosting Solutions:

Simply add the price below to any of our web hosting packages:

NT Frontpage	£50pa
NT Frontpage, Access, ASP, CGI	£180pa
NT Frontpage, SQL, ASP, CGI	£330pa

Transfer your domain name to our network and start saving today!

MAGIC M O M E N T S

Our business is to serve you

Magic Moments Internet plc

Email: enquiries@magic-moments.com/

Terms: <http://www.magic-moments.com/terms/>

**Protect your
identity!**

Host second domain
free with Heart or
Enterprise packages*

Games Hosting Solutions E-commerce Web Design Database Integration Host Provider

partnership

1696.251297.27898

No hidden set up charges!

Magic from the Heart £195pa Magic Enterprise £255pa

Special Package

- 75 MB web/hosting space
- Unlimited Email addresses
- 15 POP Email boxes
- Multiple Email routing
- Unlimited Email autoresponders
- Full FTP access and personal CGI-BIN
- Remote control panel via web interface
- Full graphical site statistics

Price excludes naming authority fees

£10 from this package is contributed to charitable causes. Charities include:
NSPCC, Great Ormond Street
Hospital, Imperial Cancer Trust.
Details: <http://www.magic-moments.com/charity/>



100 MB web/hosting space

- Unlimited Email addresses
- 20 POP Email boxes
- Multiple Email routing
- Unlimited Email autoresponders
- SSL secure server
- Full FTP access and personal CGI-BIN
- Remote control panel via web interface
- Full graphical site statistics

Price excludes naming authority fees

E-commerce Services

E-commerce solutions (including SSL) from £65 pa

Other Services

Additional web/hosting space (10MB)	£25 pa
Database facilities	from £200 pa
Filemaker Pro database hosting	from £200 pa

Naming Authority Fees

UK domains (.co.uk, .org.uk)	£5
Global domains (.com, .org, .net)	£45
Ireland domain (.ie)	£95

Based on two years fees. Fees are subject to change without notice due to fluctuations in exchange rates.

200+ Countries Available - Call Now!

Freephone: 0808 100 6200

www.magic-moments.com

*Applies to packages registered from November 1st 1999. All trademarks and registered trademarks acknowledged. All packages exclude VAT where applicable and are subject to change without prior notice.



<<< DIY NOT?

Fancy putting a suspended ceiling in over Easter weekend? Or what about erecting a couple of carriage lamps on the porch? If this sounds tempting, check out this nifty new site from DIY Fixit (www.diyfixit.co.uk) which aims to give visitors practical advice on all their building work, repairs and modifications in an easy to follow format.

INFORMATION

The complete insight into all things Internet...

PC alternatives take off

AS PC SALES SLUMP, DEMAND FOR NET-ENABLED MOBILES AND TVS SOARS

ACCESSING the Internet using your PC could soon become a thing of the past. At least that's what UK Net analysts believe after the launch of a new line-up of hardware that lets you access email and surf the Net without a computer in sight.

A recent slump in PC sales has forced the computer industry to look at alternative ways of providing the public with access to the Internet. It's all a far cry from the rosy situation last summer when PC sales were booming. A report from the International Data Corporation (www.idc.com) found PC sales in Western Europe were still growing. Chip prices were falling and major online retailers were springing up daily. There had never been a better time for UK consumers to purchase a home computer. But 12 months on,

and things are not quite so clear cut. It seems that the so-called 'PC ceiling' has been playing on people's mind. The theory is that sales are steeply diving. Last summer, Compaq launched a £1.2 billion cost-cutting drive after its share price tumbled. It's chief executive publicly blamed flagging PC sales for the slump.

Armchair surfers

Leading the charge towards alternative access is World CallNet. Its M@iTV (www.mailtv.com) system allows people to send and receive email, chat, shop and carry out home banking from the comfort of its armchair. These services can be received through a special television set that is being manufactured by Alba. Units made by Bush will be available soon. Alternatively, you will soon be able to purchase a 'retrofit' receiver kit that allows you to convert your existing television into a

Net-set. Such systems are not new; similar set-top boxes offering email have included NetStation, WebTV and WebPal, but none took off in the UK.

However, World CallNet boss, Paul Goodman Simpson, is confident that this system will appeal to the masses. "M@iTV will bring email and an expanding choice of interactive information services to the global mass consumer market at a

fraction of the cost of a computer or other existing set-top boxes," he said. "There's a strong demand in this country for interactive services such as home shopping or banking."

Apart from the cost of the equipment, users will also have to pay for access through an 0845 local rate number. The actual Net connection will be handled by World CallNet's sister company, CallNet (which also runs CallNet 0800, the freephone ISP).



HACK OF THE MONTH

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE



www.saps.co.za

A really bolshy piece of work from a hacker crew known as the Binary Outlawz. Not content with defacing the South African police badge, they've also given it plenty of lip. "The \$40,000/year administrator belongs on a WebTV terminal and the only thing he can program is his VCR," they declare. A classic piece of hacking.

m@iL.tv

Products



M@iTV™ Enabled Televisions
Many TV manufacturers have chosen to include the M@iTV™ technology inside their new TVs. When purchasing your new TV, look for the M@iTV™ logo so that you know your television is M@iTV™ enabled. M@iTV™ televisions are supplied with all the necessary accessories and instructions to get you on-line as soon as possible. Connected, and within minutes you will be sending e-mails around the world!

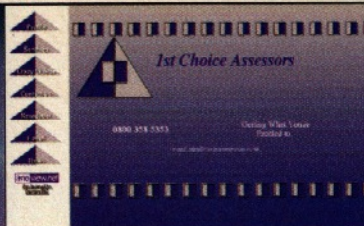


M@iTV™ Receiver Kits
The M@iTV™ receiver can be used to upgrade your existing television. The receiver is about the same size as a packet of playing cards; it fits neatly on the top or side of your existing TV set and it comes complete with all you need to get connected within minutes. In addition you will be provided with a combined universal TV remote control / M@iTV™ main keyboard. The single elegant hand controller will operate both your TV and your M@iTV™ system.



M@iTV™ full-size infra-red Keyboard for TVs and Receiver kits
For frequent users of M@iTV™, there is a full-size infra-red keyboard. This is available at a nominal upgrade charge to users. Full details of how to obtain M@iTV™ infra-red keyboards will be e-mailed to users once they have registered with M@iTV™.





<<< SITE FOR ASSESSOR EYES

Assessors are the people who deal with your insurance claims. You can appoint one to make sure you get everything you are entitled to from your insurance company. It takes the hassle out of the whole business. Or something like that. Check out 1st Choice Assessors (www.1stchoiceassessors.co.uk) to find out more.

Web access on the move

WHILE sales of home PCs appear to be flagging, mobile phones are more popular than ever. As a result, serious efforts are being made to provide full Net access to those who phone on the move. One2One (www.one2one.co.uk) lets subscribers send and receive emails on their mobiles in exchange for a small monthly fee plus a fixed charge per message. Free ISPs Freeserve (www.freeserve.net) and Genie Internet (www.genie.com) have both launched similar services.

There has also been much excitement over Nokia's 7110 WAP phone. WAP (www.wapforum.org) stands for Wireless Application Protocol, which is basically the Web for mobile devices. Orange (www.orange.co.uk) is the first network to offer multimedia services through this super-cool phone (see page 14).

Those lucky enough to get their hands on one can access the latest news, sport, entertainment and travel information. Online banking is expected to be unveiled soon.

Once users have registered for M@iTV, they will get five free email accounts. Each one is protected by a PIN and messages are typed using a "futuristic infra red full sized keyboard". A fancy function even allows you to read emails while watching EastEnders – a couch potato's dream!

But World CallNet faces fierce competition from BT (www.bt.com), which has unveiled the Easicom TV3. Using almost identical equipment, users will get five email accounts and be able to store up to 100 messages in



the box. Connection will cost 12p plus the local call rate.

And in an attempt to put one over on CallNet, the giant telco has even added a camera port. This will allow users to monitor rooms in their house with a camcorder. Great for parents everywhere.

NEWSBYTE

Richard Branson's Virgin Mobile has announced a range of new Internet services. Using smartcard technology, subscribers will be able to send emails and surf the Web from their handsets. Users will also be able to download email addresses from the Net.



"Mummy, how much longer do we have to pose for this cheesy picture?"

Doing it digitally

USING THE LATEST GADGETS TO GET ONLINE

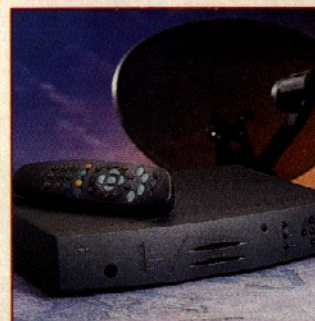
EMAIL through your TV is also being offered by Sky Digital (www.skydigital.co.uk) under the brand name of Open (www.open-here.co.uk). Since its launch last October, 200,000 users have sampled the delights of TV email. The service was crippled by the huge number of people logging on during its first few weeks, but since then has coped well. Unfortunately, the built-in modem is painfully slow, though, and you really do need to buy an infra-red keyboard to type your emails (the alternative is using the remote control's number buttons).

This isn't the only expense. Although the satellite dish and set-top box are advertised as free, you still have to pay an installation fee of between £40-£100.

Sky's rival, ONdigital, has vowed to offer email and an Internet service through its digital terrestrial service that's receivable with a normal TV aerial. A spokesperson told us that email is set to be offered in the second quarter of this year and that limited Internet access would be offered "at some point in the future." This will be a 'walled garden' service where users get access to only a handful of selected Web sites who pay ONdigital to broadcast them.

Other companies in the digital TV fray include Cable and Wireless (www.cwcom.co.uk), NTL (www.ntl.co.uk) and Telewest (www.telewest.co.uk) – all of whom also plan to offer email and high-speed Net access via cable in the not-too-distant future.

A recent survey by Pace (www.pace.co.uk) found half the country intends to switch to digital TV in the next three years – so this could well be the technology that succeeds if PC sales continue to fall.



Beginners bag bargains

THE great appeal of Net access through mobile phones, television and digital is its convenience. No more fiddling about with unresponsive modems and no more troublesome Internet Explorer installations. A very enticing prospect indeed.

However, there's still an element of Internet users who won't be able to take advantage of these systems. M@iTV and the Easicom TV3 are useless for people who want to develop their own Web pages. They can't run any software. And, for the moment, M@iTV is even unable to support email attachments of any type.

Given these limitations, experienced online users will probably stick to PCs for the time being until the technology has advanced far enough. The situation is the same with mobile phones – the services on offer are damn clever, but fairly limited.

For people just getting onto the Net, though, Net TV is a simple and cheap option. The 14-inch Alba M@iTV TV set will cost around £170 and the Easicom TV3 box £80. Given that a decent new computer costs close to £700, it's easy to see why CallNet is confident about M@iTV. It will be interesting to see just how willing the public will be to jump at these low prices.



<<< HEAVY PETTING

Petspark (www.petspark.com) is a site that every cat and dog lover should add to their bookmarks immediately. Packed full of tips on how to care for your pussy and full of interactive content for children, this colourful site is well worth visiting. Check out the excellent Petspark superstore or play the selection of Shockwave games.

0800 ISPs provide New Year Net cheer

TELCOS AND ISPS CUT COST OF SURFING



IT'S been non-stop action on the 0800 scene recently, with a whole raft of new announcements bringing Millennium cheer to consumers. Following the hammering BT (www.bt.com) took over its plans to offer unmetered access to ISPs (see last month's Infonation), the giant telco has hit back with a new flat-rate access scheme for consumers called Surftime. For £36 per month, Net users can enjoy unlimited 24/7 online access. Other options include unlimited daytime access for £26.99 per month, from Monday to Friday. For further details, see the pricing table below.

Meanwhile, rival telco Telewest Communications (www.telewest.co.uk), has unveiled its own unmetered Net access scheme. Its SurfUnlimited will be available from the middle of February to Telewest residential telephone subscribers. They will pay £9 per month for basic phone line rental and will be required to spend at least £10 per month on other telephone call charges.

ISPs Totalise (www.totalise.net) and LineOne (www.lineone.net) are

now offering free Net calls to users. The condition is that you must make a certain level of calls with a specified telco.

In an attempt to totally confuse everyone, 08004U (www.08004U.net) has moved URL and totally reinvented itself. Launched last summer as the UK's first 0800 ISP, the company has been blighted by problems (see last issue's Infonation). But for now, the £50 a month service is back.

Done a runner

But not all changes have been good. No sooner had SkyTrak disappeared – its boss has allegedly done a runner with subscribers money – than Freedom and SMI were announcing changes to their 0800 services. From now on, Freedom (www.freedom.net) will be known as 0800freedom. As we went to press, no launch date had been confirmed.

SMI (www.smi-group.co.uk) has also had technical problems and its FreeNet0800 service will now launch in the "first quarter of Year 2000." So you'll just have to wait.



NEWSBYTE

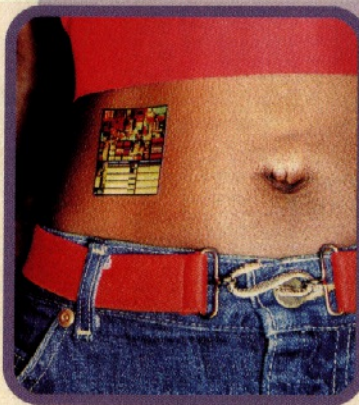
Microsoft supremo Bill Gates is up for sale! OK, that's not strictly true, but the domain name www.billgates.co.uk has gone under the hammer with a reserve price of £2 million at domain name auctioneers Names123.Com (www.names123.com).

Fashion chips to go

Apple started it with its multi-coloured iMacs and iBooks. PC manufacturers quickly followed suit, adding colour to previously boring beige machines. Even peripheral companies like Agfa and Kodak jumped on the fashion bandwagon, with multi-coloured scanner lid handles and digital cameras respectively. Image, it seems, is everything.

Now, a designer from St Martins College of Art and Design has come up with a piece of hardware you can actually wear. Sigridur Sigurjonsdottir has used Intel's new multi-coloured Pentium III processor (www.intel.co.uk) to produce something known as 'The Future Pocket'. This ready-to-wear microchip is still just a concept, but the idea is that it will hold things like

personal information and a DNA profile. "The Future pocket has a small outside but an endless inside – just what we need!" said an excited Sigurjonsdottir.



The Sludge Report

SALACIOUS SATIRE FROM THE SUPERHIGHWAY

• According to the *New York Times*, a Digiscents (www.digiscents.com) is working on PCs that will feature a 'Snortal' which allows users to send smells via the Internet.

Knowing how often some slimy

Internet geeks wash, I sure as **** don't want to receive their odours in my In Box.

• Not content with sending me envelopes with no stamps on them, PR company Stewart-Muir Communications has been sending emails to journalists warning they "may have passed on" a virus. More exciting than most of the things PR people send, I suppose.

• Sludge was intrigued to hear that the Campaign for Unmetered Telecoms (CUT) Christmas party was sponsored by America Online. Who better to endorse the bash than a company which charges punters for every minute they're on the Net?

• If there's one thing you can rely on, it's the good old National Health Service. Even its Web site at www.nhsdirect.co.uk is slow, unhelpful and slows down because of too many users.

• Sludge spies another fine example of politicians listening to the people. I hear on the grapevine that an unnamed MP has responded to an email – 381 days after it was sent.

• NetValue (www.net-value.co.uk) has found the Web to be the most popular part of the Internet. The company says its software "resides on the panel member's PC and tracks all Internet services." All Internet services, that is, except for email – that most unpopular of niche activities. "It's something they're looking at doing," a rather embarrassed spokeswoman told me.

The true cost of BT Surftime

INTERNET OPTION	COST (PER MONTH)	SERVICE*
WEEKEND	£6.99	UNLIMITED ACCESS AT WEEKENDS
EVENING AND NIGHT-TIME	£6.99	UNLIMITED ACCESS DURING WEEKDAY EVENINGS AND NIGHTS
DAYTIME	£26.99	UNLIMITED DAYTIME ACCESS
ANYTIME	£34.99	UNLIMITED ACCESS ANYTIME
PAY-AS-YOU-GO	N/A	INTERNET CALLS CHARGED AT 1P PER MINUTE EVENINGS, NIGHT-TIME AND WEEKENDS. 2P PER MINUTE DURING THE DAY.

* If you access the Net outside the times specified, you will be liable to extra charges.



FREE THINKING

AT FREEUK, WE BELIEVE THE INTERNET
SHOULD BE FREE.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN SUBSCRIPTION
CHARGES.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN MONTHLY FEES.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IN SET-UP FEES.

**FREE INTERNET
ACCESS.**

FREE UNLIMITED EMAIL ADDRESSES.

FREE 25MB WEB SPACE.

24 HOUR TECHNICAL SUPPORT.

IT'S WHAT THE INTERNET WAS ALWAYS
MEANT TO BE.

THE FREEUK MANIFESTO.

**FreeUK** .com

IT'S A FREE WORLD.

Feel free to call : 0845 3555 555

Signup online : www.freeuk.com

The Dialectizer

By Russell Mott
Convert English text to... well, you'll see.

Dialectize a Web Page

Dialect:

URL:

<<< JIVE TALKING

Ever wondered what your site might look like if you could translate it into a different dialect. How about fluent cockney or Jamaican jive? Do it by visiting Dialectizer (<http://rinkworks.com/dialect/>). Simply tap in the URL of the site you want to translate, wait a few seconds and marvel at the results. We had hours of fun.

NETWATCH

INTERNET FREEDOM'S CHRIS ELLISON CASTS A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CYBERSPACE

In a poll that was carried out at the end of 1999 by Reuters, 73.2 per cent of respondents agreed that the huge fears tied to the so-called Y2K glitch reflect a "general pattern of society becoming too dependent on technology".

Of course, the poll was a little loaded. A rather different picture might have evolved if the question had been: "Do you enjoy technology?", or "Would you rather return to living in caves?" But the

suspicion that we are becoming too reliant on technology seems widespread.

We are certainly very reliant on technology. Most of the stories I write would be almost impossible to research if it

MANY ACTIVITIES WOULD GRIND TO A HALT AT DUSK IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB

weren't for the technology of the Internet. Getting to work every day would be out of the question for me if it weren't for the electric train and technology of the combustion engine. Many activities would grind to a halt at dusk if it weren't for the electric light bulb.

But are we too dependent on it? The idea that we are over-reliant on technology forgets that technology develops to overcome another dependence: one on Nature. The Internet lets me overcome the Natural barriers of distance to communicate around the globe. The train helps me reduce the Natural limitations of walking or horse riding as a means of travel. The light bulb allows me to overcome the Natural constraints of depending on the Sun as a light source.

Throughout the Ages an increasing dependence on technology has come hand in hand with greater civilisation. Of course that is not to say

that the application of technology is unproblematic. The Y2K glitch is a case in point. But the problem is not over-dependence on technology, but rather its under-development. The solution to the Y2K problem is technological.

Dependence on technology means independence from Nature and more reliance on Humanity. Which makes me wonder if what really lies behind some people's concerns is not dependence on technology but distrust in people.

Internet Freedom can be contacted on campaign@netfreedom.org. The campaign's Web site is at www.netfreedom.org



Heaven and ADSL

£50 FOR FAST NET ACCESS, SAY EXPERTS

AFTER months of intense speculation, BT has finally announced the wholesale price of super-fast ADSL Net access. Estimates have varied wildly, but the giant phone company has settled on a cost price of £35 per month. With ISPs having to pay a one-off connection fee of £150, experts are predicting this will mean an average consumer price of around £50 per month. Indeed, Freeserve (www.freeserve.net) recently dropped the cost of its ADSL trial to £49.99 per month. Its full service will swing in to action from late Spring.

Fast and furious

ADSL stands for Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line, which in laymen's terms mean bloody fast Net

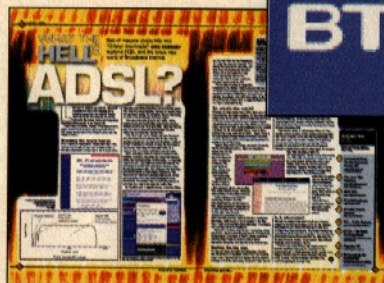
access. How quick exactly? Well, you're looking at about 10 times faster than your current 56k modem connection. Originally, BT was looking at a much speedier system – around four times faster than the current system. But it opted for less speed and a higher price, saying it was more realistic. See *Practical Internet* issue 35 for a full explanation of ADSL.

Six million strong

Although the UK roll-out of ADSL was only announced last summer, BT has been trialing the service in North London over several months. As we speak, BT is getting ready to equip 400 local exchanges with ADSL capacity.

This will bring high bandwidth services to six million households. The trouble is, will any of us actually be able to afford to use it? Some pundits say the true

cost of ADSL could be as much as £200 per month. It will also be available only in main cities during its initial roll-out period.



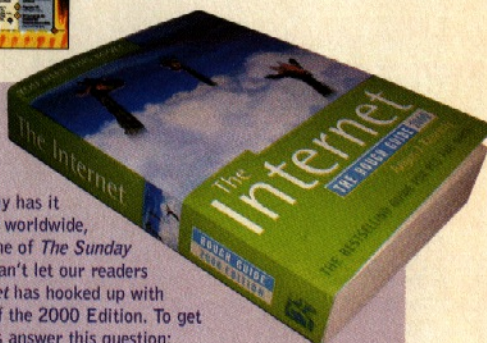
Rough stuff

BOOK publisher Rough Guide has achieved a unique double first. Not only has it sold one million copies of *The Internet* worldwide, but the title has also been named as one of *The Sunday Times* books of 1999. Naturally, we can't let our readers go without a copy, so *Practical Internet* has hooked up with Rough Guide to give away 20 copies of the 2000 Edition. To get your mitts on one, all you have to do is answer this question:

WHO PUBLISHES 'THE INTERNET'?

A: THE GIRL GUIDES B: TOUR GUIDE OPERATORS C: ROUGH GUIDE

Send your answers by email to pl@paragon.co.uk with the subject heading as 'Rough Guide'. Usual Paragon Publishing competition rules apply.



Startled at the cost of kit?

Don't buy or sell until you QXL

QXL.com
online auctions

For trade enquiries email us at computer@qxl.com

www.qxl.com

THE INCLUSIVE BUSINESS PACKAGE

INCLUSIVE

Technical Support

7 days a week - your business will always have help to hand. Our dedicated technical support team is there to help.

INCLUSIVE

Lan connectivity

A fast, 128k digital dial-on-demand service provides full, simultaneous Internet access for staff. Being dial-on-demand, you only pay when you are using the service - a local rate call*

* A 64k connection is a local rate call. 128k connections are two 0845 local calls bonded together.

INCLUSIVE

25Mb of Web space

25Mb of Web space within your domain (<http://www.yourcompany.co.uk>) is allocated for your business use (subject to the operating terms and conditions on our Web Site).



INCLUSIVE

Unlimited e-mail addresses

Every employee in your company will have their own e-mail address.

INCLUSIVE

Pre-configured router & firewall

Routers are configured to each individual customer's requirements. In addition, an integrated firewall protects your network from intruders.

INCLUSIVE

Domain name registration

Unique domain name to identify your company (yourcompany.co.uk).

WEB DESIGN

Option

To complete your Business Package, a bespoke design service is available to promote your company, product and services on the Web.



The Enterprise Business Package offers everything to get you onto the Web, including hardware, a unique domain

name (yourcompany.co.uk - subject to availability) and infinite e-mail addresses.

Connecting to the Internet via Enterprise could not be more straightforward. We take care of the technical issues to ensure your Internet LAN service is on-line as seamlessly and as quickly as possible. To find out how you can benefit from the Enterprise Business Package contact our sales staff on our

dedicated telephone sales line or by e-mail at sales@enterprise.net.



TEL: 0845 604 0174

ENTERPRISE
INTERNET SOLUTIONS

Sales Enquiries

<http://www.enterprise.net>

E-mail

sales@enterprise.net

Ed on the Web™



English 9-11

Ed's FREE Literacy Hour
Click Here

<<< GOOD ED

It's always important to make sure all your spelling and grammar is up to scratch. The best way of doing this is to learn the principles of the English language from an early age. If you know a youngster who needs a bit of help with their English, steer them towards Ed on the Web (www.edontheweb.com) to brush up their skills.

It's a Nok-out!

7110 WAP PHONE IS HERE

AFTER months of delays, the much-hyped Nokia 7110 WAP (Wireless Application Protocol) phone has finally arrived. Well, sort of. As we went to press, phone shops were displaying nothing more than a plastic imitation. And Orange's Web site (www.orange.co.uk) was saying the phone was out of stock.

For a small piece of battery-powered plastic, the Nokia 7110 has caused quite a stir. But that's hardly surprising when you consider it's the world's first true Internet mobile. The 141g handset – as seen in the smash film, *The Matrix* – incorporates a special microbrowser that lets you locate information on the Net by entering keywords. The special Navi Roller lets you move quickly through menus, just like an Internet scrolling mouse. See our example below as we searched the Net for weather reports.

Bond bonus

With an extra-large display, the Nokia 7110 can cope with a wide range of fonts and graphics. Even the age-old problem of writing email has been solved. A special feature called Predictive Text Input guesses the most likely word as you enter the characters.

If all this wasn't enough, there's a special 'James Bond' feature – flick a button and the protective cover slides down. A mobile guaranteed to turn heads.

PRODUCT: NOKIA 7110

PRICE: £129.99 (incl. VAT)

CONTACT: www.orange.co.uk

HOW IT WORKS

THE NOKIA'S TINY MICRO WEB BROWSER



1

Choose your resort using the Navi Roller. Hit the 'Select' button.



2

The details appear on your screen. Hit 'Exit' to choose another resort.



NEWSBYTE

A new initiative from DIY Web site HiRevolution (www.hirevolution.com) looks set to take the hassle out of getting a builder in. Access the site, choose your man and HiRevolution will email the contract details through to their mobile phone – easy



'the net' magazine votes Excite their number one...

...which comes as no surprise to btclick.com

Excite has been voted best search site by 'the net' magazine with "stunning delivery of accurate search results, not to mention its awesome array of services". This comes as no surprise to award winning service provider btclick.com who have joined forces with Excite to bring you a fantastic partnership on the Internet. So if you want to know if Excite lives up to its name, let btclick.com take you there.

In partnership with

excite
www.excite.co.uk



Stay in touch

**To find out more visit www.btclick.com
or call freefone 0800 800 001.**

NIGHT-OUT MAGAZINE

WIN 1000's of Night Out Tickets
Today's club: The Rhythm Room, Essex 8

Home/Venue Listings
Music/Fest
Golfing
Yates Tour Dates
Feedback

LATEST NEWS
SPRING
AND SUMMER
LONDON LEAD

Night Out & stay together place on the Net

Home Magazine Music Festivals Golfing Yates Tour Feedback

<<< NIGHT FEVER

A night out on the town sounds good to us! Anywhere and anytime, we honestly don't mind! But if you're stuck for something to do at the weekend and want to plan an evening on the town, head for the Night-out (www.night-out.co.uk). It lists over 2,000 clubs and bars along with details on all their door policies.

Girl fire power!

ALEX WADDINGTON VISITS NEWS INTERNATIONAL TO WITNESS THE START OF A NEW AUCTION SITE

Fire starter:
Former Sun
man, Andy
Coulson, has a new
scope



STANDING at the mammoth gates of News International, I am unsure what awaits me. Someone arrives instantly to escort me to my meeting. "You'd get lost otherwise," she explains. Within minutes I'm sitting on a comfy leather couch. Close by sits Andy Coulson, *The Sun's* former showbiz editor, talking into a mobile phone. He finishes his conversation and walks over,

to be joined by Christopher Lloyd, former technology editor at *The Sunday Times*. I'm deep inside the bowels of Rupert Murdoch's empire and they've got me at their mercy

As it turns out, we're here to talk about auctions, women's clothing and The Spice Girls.

FiredUp.com (www.firedup.com) is the latest product of News Network – the Internet arm of News International. On the day I meet the guys, the buzzword is e-Commerce – 'entertainment commerce'. Rather than copying QXL and eBay, FiredUp's auctions are entertainment and event driven,

revolving around things like concerts and big sporting events.

The launch of the auction house coincided with a Web cast of a Spice Girls concert from Earl's Court. Fans of the group then had the chance to buy memorabilia from FiredUp such as Mel C's *Wannabe* outfit.

A great idea, but surely memorabilia like this is beyond the pocket of the average punter. Andy takes my point, but says there will be something to suit everyone. The pair also acknowledge that people are still worried about security. But they're hoping that FiredUp's goodies will tempt more people to buy online. The question is, will they snare you?



firedup where everything has its price

home | register/login | event calendar | what's hot | merchants | auctionplace | how to bid | help | search

WE HAVE... GREAT EVENTS
THEY CHANGE ALL THE TIME

VISIT OUR auctionplace

DON'T MISS IT REGISTER NOW

CAPTAIN CASH CELEBRITY AUCTION
CLICK TO BID!

Spice Auction

BID!

BID NOW FOR STING 2000 CALENDAR
click here for more info

Push & Beats
T-shirt
start bid: £1
end date: 21/12/99
click to enquire

brought to you by
FiredUp.com
events and
entertainment

If you want to do your bit for charity FiredUp.com have teamed up with the *News Of The World* and have got just the auction for you. You could be the proud owner of a guitar signed by Sir Elton John. Phil

What can I buy?*



A T-SHIRT SIGNED BY VICTORIA AND DAVID BECKHAM
An essential item for fans of Britain's most high-profile couple. This T-shirt comes in XL and is made from 100 per cent cotton. With Posh and David both signing it, its value can only increase in years to come. Unless they split up...



CARL COX'S TECHNICS DECKS
Superstar DJs, here we go! Vinyl perverts around the country will be enticed by these top Technics decks, donated by the world's best known spinner – Carl Cox. According to the man both Run DMC and Pete Tong have used them!



A YMCA-SHAPED GUITAR
How do you fancy owning this unique-shaped guitar, signed by pop stars such as Eric Clapton, Elton John, BB King, Phil Collins and, er, The Village People. It has been made by Phil Norsworthy, a most respected UK guitar-makers.



A TOP FROM KEAVY LYNCH OF B*WITCHED
B*witched beauty Keavy Lynch has donated her very own shirt to be auctioned off at FiredUp.com. The Irish girl band sensation has kindly given this small and slinky purple number. All the B*witched girls will sign it for you, too.

* This is just an example of what is on offer. By the time you read this, it will probably have all been sold!



Can't Get Your Head Around THE NET?

*We Understand
Talk to US!*



**Domain Name Registration
NT & Linux Hosting Solutions
Reseller & Virtual ISP Schemes
MS Access, ASP & SQL Support**

Business Solution 1

Domain Registration
Unlimited Email Forwarding
Web Forwarding
£79

Business Solution 2

Domain Registration
Unlimited Email Forwarding
50 Mb Webspace
5 POP3 Mailboxes
Frontpage 98 Support
£99

Business Solution 3

100 Mb Webspace
Unlimited Email Forwarding
Domain Name Registration
Internet Connection
5 POP3 Mailboxes
Website Stats
Database Connectivity
Frontpage 2000 Support
£249



0800 389 1397
<http://www.orbitalnet.co.uk>

Company Registered in England and Wales Company No 3761505
All Prices Are Subject to VAT at 17.5% All users accept our terms and conditions at <http://www.orbitalnet.co.uk>



Welcome
Accommodation
History City



Local attractions
How to find us
Guestbook

<<< UP IN ARMS

The Royal Arms (www.royal-arms.co.uk) is one of those great English country pubs. You know, the kind that screams timber beams, bar billiards and a dartboard. Check out the site to find out how to book this Warwickshire pub for functions or to discover more about its exciting history, which includes connections to both Shakespeare and the War of the Roses.

Browser war intensifies

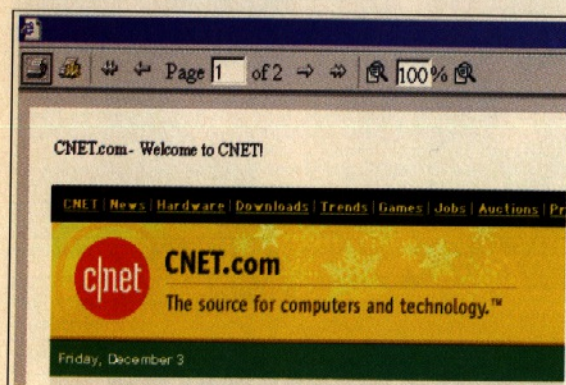
MICROSOFT UNLEASHES NEW BETA VERSION OF EXPLORER

MICROSOFT has fired another shot in its browser war with Netscape by unveiling a new version of Internet Explorer. But the 5.5 beta release has had a mixed response, with some users reporting that it

makes their system crash. Others say they are using it without any problems.

The main features of the new software are a print preview option and the addition of MSN Messenger to Outlook Express. Apart from this, there's little else to get excited about. Most of the other tweaks have been done under the bonnet. The new version is supposedly more stable and secure than 5.01. This is good news for anyone who has problems with things like screen freezes. Microsoft also claims that 5.5 is compliant with new Web development standards, such as DHTML and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). You can find the software on our cover CD.

Meanwhile, Qualcomm has made the full version of its popular Eudora (www.eudora.com) email program available free of charge. Up until recently, users had to choose between the free Eudora Light and the £20 Eudora Pro. Now you can get a sponsored version of Eudora Pro, absolutely free. The only catch is you'll have to put up with annoying on-screen adverts.

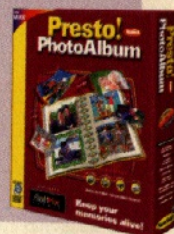


Apology

DUE to technical problems, the covermounted disc on issue 36 of *Practical Internet* did not contain all the files needed to run Presto! PhotoAlbum.

We apologise for any inconvenience and disappointment this may have caused and are happy to provide you with a new disc featuring the fully-working program.

Please send proof of purchase of issue 36 to Presto! PhotoAlbum Returns, Paragon Publishing, Freepost (BH 1255), Bournemouth, BH1 2TA. No stamp is necessary.



Are you memorable on the web?

Personalise your Website and Email

Your website address: www.yourname.inUK.com

Your email addresses: anything@yourname.inUK.com

Free Hosting with 10Mb webspace

Free Web-based Personal Organiser

Free Web-based Control Panel

Free Net Access (just for the hell of it!)

Options for FrontPage™ Extensions, Logs and more

[Over 1200 inUK.com domains now active !]

<http://www.inUK.com>



BACKCHAT

Got something to say about the magazine or the Net in general? Here's your chance... Email us at pi@paragon.co.uk, or send your letters the old-fashioned way to Practical Internet, Paragon Publishing, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH1 2JS

Surftime is no great deal

Having already burnt my fingers with the freephone ISP 08004u, I'm now extremely wary about other similar service providers. Many of us want an '0800 all the time' Internet connection, but the proposed flat rate fee of £34.99 per month for BT's Surftime package (£104.97 per quarter) is just too expensive – especially if you are a BT Home Highway user.

As a Home Highway customer, you will only be able to access the Net at 64k and not at 128k unless you spend £209.94 per quarter, bearing in mind that the cost of BT Home Highway is £116 per quarter. That's a total of £325.94 per quarter before other phone call costs!

This may include £45 worth of free calls but if you a surfer paying the flat rate fee it may not do you any good. I am beginning to wonder if there was any point in subscribing to BT Home Highway in the first place?

Ian Kirkman

BT Surftime, which is not due to be launched until the Spring, will offer 0800 access at a cost. Whether this is a good deal or not for you depends on how much you currently spend on telephone charges for Net access. Remember that there are

BT's soon-to-be launched Surftime package will provide 0800 Net access but you'll be charged a monthly fee

CAUGHT SHORT

From marketplace to cyberspace...

Firstly, congratulations on your magazine. There's not a month that goes by when I don't learn at least one new thing about the Internet. This was especially true of issue 35, with your Open All Hours feature. I run my own business selling various items that I've hand-made. These range from mirrors to hats to paintings to jewellery.

Up until now I have been selling my goods in other people's shops, or by hiring stalls at markets. But thanks to your feature, I am definitely inspired to set up a Web site, and try and sell through that avenue. At least it will mean I won't have to stand out in the freezing cold anymore!

Poppy Trance

plenty of already launched 0800 ISPs offering Internet access without any monthly charges. See our ISP guide at the back of this issue for details.

Net shopping's not for me

As a regular reader of your Net Shopping section, I have been meaning to give it a try for some time now. One day, after returning from an exhausting shopping session, I decided to take the plunge. From what I've been led to believe, online shopping is the best thing since sliced bread.

Well, let me tell you that it's a complete myth. It's all very well buying books and CDs from Amazon but birthdays would be incredibly dull if that's all people had to look forward to. I tried to find some Chanel Allure perfume for my wife, but could I find what I wanted? Could I hell!

It took me the best part of an hour to search all the UK online perfume shops and all I got was frustrated. My advice to people is stick to what you know – Net shopping is over-rated.

Mr J Batty

Sorry to hear your first steps into online shopping were not as fruitful as they should have been. Rather than going straight to individual shops, it's often better to visit shopping malls such as I Want To Shop (www.iwanttoshop.com) which offer links to many thousands of stores and a huge range of products.

Just how free is CallNet 0800?

Practical Internet's issue 35 had the interesting news that CallNet 0800 was one of the first ISPs to offer free 0800 access. But in your news story there was the sentence "users receive an easy to understand monthly summary bill of their call charges." What call charges are these? I thought the whole idea of 0800 Net access was that it's free?

Norman Hodgkinton

CallNet 0800 is indeed providing freephone Internet access – which means you pay no subscription and no telephone charges for surfing the Web. All those who join the service qualify for reduced price telephone calls since Callnet is offering a 30 per cent discount on BT standard rates. If you take advantage of this, you'll receive a monthly phone bill from Callnet. This is the bill that we referred to in our news story.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

WIN!
a Zoom
Webcam

Hi, this is really just an email to say well done on the mag and to let you know how much I appreciate your efforts. I am not referring so much to the particular features you run (although, they are great) but more so the quality of writing in the magazine. This is so often overlooked – people enjoy reading a feature but do not think to consider how well it has been written.

Magazine publishing is in many ways a typical industry. When a new craze kicks off, you can be sure many magazines will be launched. The Internet has been no exception and, as you know, there are literally dozen of mags to choose from. Yes, many have great features and other things to promote them, however, some are simply badly written. I am never disappointed by the humorous (sometimes "laugh out loud") and very knowledgeable talent you have on the Practical Internet team. And that's it really. Always a pleasure to read.

Rob Cook

With such lavish praise, how could we not make yours the letter of the month? Enjoy using your Webcam, Rob, and we hope you continue to enjoy Practical Internet.

Every month, the best letter we receive wins a splendid ZoomCam Webcam (pictured above). The camera is ideal for all sorts of multimedia applications including video capture, video mail and videoconferencing. Available in USB, PPC or ISA versions, these cameras are perfect for bridging the gap between distant family, friends and colleagues.

COMPETITION WINNERS

LADY LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE

The fifteen lucky winners of the Labtec speaker packages up for grabs in issue 35 were David Martin (London), Mrs V Lovegrove (Stafford), Mr KB Harris (Salisbury), John Parish (Kent), Brian Goodwin (Whitehaven), Paul Bevan (Romsey), GW Starr (Conwy), N V Cakans (Blackburn), P Conway (Staffs), Nigel Valentine (Hove), Clive Wilson (Kirkcaldy), Richard Martin (Surrey), Vince Kitley (Oakley), J.M. Hinton (Salford), Mrs T Shuttler (Basingstoke).

Winner of the Flat Eric toy from HotBox (www.hotbox.co.uk) was Vince Kitley (Oakley, Hants). Congrats!

Professional quality workstations at amazing low prices

**FREE
DELIVERY**

across mainland UK and
Northern Ireland. For
orders over £100

PC TOWERCENTRE RANGE

Choice of 3 sizes, each in 4 finishes

There is a difference! For almost two decades we have been dedicated to manufacturing computer workstations. Quality, no-nonsense workstations designed for the professional user, and built to last - like the PC TowerCentre range.

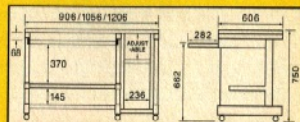
The tower module safely houses even full height towers (max 635mm), and fits either side. Both the keyboard and the printer shelves are on roller runners, giving ample leg room and comfortable keying, with easy printer access. Plus there is a spacious stationery shelf below.

Notice the three rugged steel legs for incredible strength - plenty strong enough even for 21" monitors. Notice the thick rounded safety edging on the worksurfaces to eliminate painful sharp corners, and the braked twin-wheel castors.

It's the difference between a professional quality workstation and the flimsy items in the stores.

Best of all, by buying direct you can have a PC TowerCentre delivered right to your door for as little as £145 + VAT!

- Suitable for up to 21" monitors
- Spacious worktop gives room to spread out
- Compartment for midi or full tower fits either side
- Keyboard shelf on roller runners gives ample leg room
- Printer shelf on roller runners for easy access
- Spacious stationery shelf



Only Available
Direct from
Budget
Workstations
These models will not
be found in any stores

TAKES
FULL
TOWERS

**SAME DAY
DESPATCH**
ON ALL ORDERS
PLACED BY NOON
(WEDNESDAY)

prices from
£145/£170.38
inc VAT

PC TowerCentre 1200
(48") in Light Oak

PC TOWERCENTRE 900

Compact 36" width for tight spaces. Mouse board (recommended extra) fits either side of keyboard shelf. Choice of four finishes - Dark Mahogany shown.

PC TOWERCENTRE 1050

Convenient 42" width gives extra workspace, plus larger keyboard, printer and stationery shelves. Choice of four finishes - Soft Grey shown.

PC PROFESSIONALS

Choice of 2 sizes, each in 4 finishes

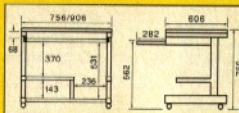
A professional quality workstation for £99 + VAT? Yes, it really is possible at our factory direct prices!

Choose from 30" or 36" widths, each available in four attractive and durable finishes, and all manufactured by us to full ISO9002 quality standards.

PC Professionals are suitable for up to 17" monitors and feature a roll out keyboard shelf on smooth roller runners, a bay for towers up to 530mm high which fits either side, high density 18mm thick work-tops with rounded safety edging, and braked twin-wheel castors.

prices from
£99/£116.33
inc VAT

PC Professional 3
(30" x 24") in Mid Teak



30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

No hassle mail order refund if you return goods as new and unassembled within 30 days

12 MONTH WARRANTY

All workstations carry a 12 month unconditional warranty against manufacturing faults



Our ISO9002 Quality Assurance virtually guarantees you won't need our guarantees

Quality Assured BS EN ISO 9002:1994

FREE DELIVERY

(with orders over £100).

Our standard service offers a secure weekday delivery to your home or workplace by parcel carrier, usually within 3 working days of despatch. For orders under £100, delivery costs £10 (£11.75 inc VAT).

SERVICE UPGRADES

Specified Weekday: Add £5 (£5.88 inc VAT)

Specified Weekday AM: Add £9 (£10.58 inc VAT)

Saturday AM: Add £16 (£18.80 inc VAT)

4 WORKSTATION COLOURS TO CHOOSE FROM



Colour reproduction is not exact

OPTIONS & ACCESSORIES



MOUSE BOARD

This robust slide away mouse board can be fitted to either side of the keyboard shelf on any of our workstations.



FOLDING EXTENSION

Extra work space with a folding extension. Extends width by 306mm (25mm when folded). Fits left or right.



OVERSHELL

Make use of the dead space above your computer. Available in widths to suit all workstations. 753mm high x 256mm deep, with 520mm clear below shelf.

ECO CHAIR

The Eco ergonomic chair has been purpose designed to ensure comfort at your computer. Fingertip controls give you infinite adjustment over seat height and tilt. The backrest with lumbar support is adjustable for both height and angle relative to the seat. Choose from four fabric colours: Blue, Peat, Charcoal and Grey, with or without armrests.



4 FABRIC COLOURS



3 DRAWER PEDESTAL

Our matching height mobile drawer pedestal will tidy away your stationery and files, and provides a valuable extension to the worksurface when used beside your workstation. Size: 750(h) x 432 (w) x 606 (d)



Model	Code	List Price (inc VAT)	SPECIAL OFFER PRICES (inc VAT) (ex VAT)	
PC TowerCentre 900	T90	£209	£170.38	£145
PC TowerCentre 1050	T105	£239	£205.63	£175
PC TowerCentre 1200	T120	£269	£229.13	£195
PC Professional 3	PCP3	£165	£116.33	£99
PC Professional 4	PCP4	£175	£128.07	£109
Extension	XX	£30	£23.50	£20
Mouse Board	MB	£20	£17.63	£15
Overshell 750	S75	£45	£37.60	£32
Overshell 900	S90	£49	£41.13	£35
Overshell 1050	S105	£54	£44.65	£38
Overshell 1200	S120	£58	£48.18	£41
Eco Chair w/o arms	CHX	£163	£135.13	£115
Eco Chair with arms	CHA	£185	£158.63	£135
3 Drawer Pedestal	DHP3	£199	£158.63	£135

BUDGETWORKSTATIONS

0181-871 4322



Units 13-14, Glenville Mews Industrial Estate, Kimber Road, London SW18 4NJ

Tel: 0181-871 4322 • Fax: 0181-870 7986

Products are flat packed and suitable for equipment shown, but no claim to universal suitability is made. Delivery terms subject to stock. We reserve the right to amend product specifications without notice. Time limited offer - unless agreed in writing, current advertised offer prices/terms, and our Standard Terms of Sale (available on request) shall apply to all orders. Offer prices are for mail order only. Money back guarantee applies prior to assembly only and excludes carriage costs. Telephone calls may be recorded. E. & O. E. Unless extended offers end on the 5th day of the cover month of this magazine.

NETSHOPPING

The **ultimate** guide to **spending money online**

TOY STORY

HAMLEYS, the world-famous toy store, has launched an online shop bringing the delights of the London flagship to the Net.

Around 150 toys have been carefully selected from the six floors of the Regent Street store to feature on the site. Visitors to

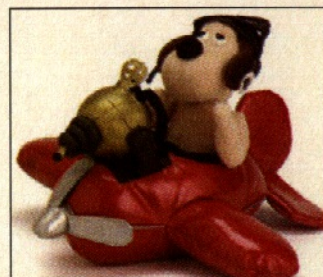
www.hamleys.com can search the site by category or age range, or ask for recommendations (male or female, age, price bracket) to help them find a suitable gift.

High resolution images of the toys can be viewed individually and many of these will be animated as

the site develops.

Every purchase is hand wrapped and can be delivered within the UK and Europe in three working days.

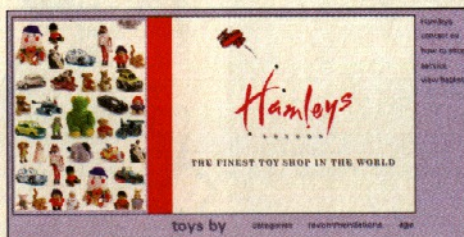
"The Hamleys tradition is one of quality and



The French ban on British beef moved Grommit to take drastic action

excellence – and fun, a lasting experience which we were determined to bring to our customers via the Net," said Hamleys boss Simon Burke.

The site's most popular buys over Christmas were Millennium Bears, a Limited Edition bus, Paddington Bears and Pudgey Pigs.



War on rip offs!

DECLARING war on 'rip off Britain', Intersaver has launched a new shop selling cut-price big brand products. Offering a wide range of products from washing machines to hi-fis, the site at

www.intersaver.co.uk vows to undercut high street prices by up to 35 per cent.

"Consumers are sick and tired of being forced to pay sky high prices for everyday goods," said John Thornhill, the site's boss. Intersaver also allows people to use bulk purchasing muscle to make massive savings.

TOP OF THE SHOPS

THE HIT PARADE OF THIS MONTH'S MOST VISITED SHOPPING SITES

VISITORS THIS MONTH (MILLIONS) ▼

1	Ebay	7.47
	www.ebay.com	
2	Amazon	7.37
	www.amazon.com	
3	Download.com	4.71
	www.download.com	
4	Bluemountain.com	4.61
	www.bluemountain.com	
5	CD now	3.67
	www.cdnow.com	
6	Cnet.com	3.52
	www.cnet.com	
7	Map Quest	2.97
	www.mapquest.com	
8	Freeshop.com	2.93
	www.freeshop.com	
9	Ubid.com	2.74
	www.ubid.com	
10	Barnes & Noble.com	2.52
	www.barnesandnoble.com	

SOURCE: PC Data.com



No more hi de hi!

BUTLINS has gone live with a new Web site as part of its drive to shake off its unfashionable 'Hi de Hi' image. The site (www.butlins.co.uk) is offering a free day-pass to encourage a new audience to experience its 'new look' resorts.

As well as applying for a coupon for a free day at a Butlins resort, visitors can also buy a limited range of holidays online via a link to the Leisurehunt site.

The site provides information on how to get to the resorts, as well as details on all the other companies that sell from the resorts such as Burger King, Harry Ramsden's and Odeon Cinemas.

Escape the big freeze

IF all the recent miserable winter weather has got you thinking about your summer hols, take a look at Holiday Wizard (www.holidaywizard.co.uk).

You'll find the widest ever choice of holiday brochures in one place here and the site aims to offer consumers a choice they can no longer find on the High Street.



You can search the Holiday Wizard by country, destination or holiday type and see a comprehensive list of brochures instantly. Then request your choice of brochures to browse at leisure in your home.

"Our aim is to help holiday makers choose their brochures more quickly, and from a wider selection, than ever before", says Matt Gillam, the entrepreneur behind Holiday Wizard. "With over 1000 destinations in more than 150 countries, we offer a choice you just can't find anywhere else."

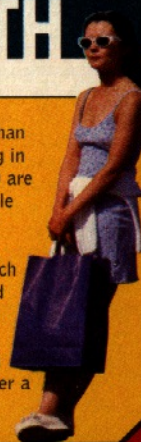
"Holiday Wizard covers all the traditional holidays – city breaks, skiing, villas, holidays in the sun and cruises. We're also adding new brochures and categories all the time" he said.

SHOP OF THE MONTH

SCOTLAND GIFTS <http://www.scotlandgifts.com>



OCH aye the noo! More than 250 Scottish gifts ranging in price from £3 to £12,000 are on offer from this wee little shop (well, large shop actually). As well as traditional Celtic fayre such as shortbread, salmon and malt whisky, it also offers a full Highland wedding service. And if you're in a daring mood, you can order a made-to-measure kilt!



SHOPAHOLICS

CATCH UP WITH THE LATEST IN YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING STORIES



Put a cork in it!

Wine connoisseur Paul Mathieu enjoys nothing better than a sip and sniff of the best Beaujolais – but he doesn't like paying through the nose to get it. So he turned to the Net and was impressed with what he found.

"Did you know that 95 per cent of all the wine bought in Britain is drunk within four hours of purchase?" he asks us. "To state the obvious, if you're part of the 95 per cent, then shopping online for wine isn't for you. For starters, it takes more than four hours to get your plonk delivered. But as a repeat 'e-buyer' of wine, I can recommend the experience. I buy from Chateau Online (www.chateauonline.com), the 'wine specialist on the Internet.' Its home page features latest favourites. As I write, these include a Hungarian Sauvignon at £4.22 a bottle and a French Loire red at £4.64. The home page also offers wine news, special offers – usually backed by a 'never knowingly undersold' price guarantee and Champagne.

ChateauOnline has its own 'cyber-sommelier', Jean-Michel Deluc. He previously lorded it over the cellars of the Ritz Hotel in Paris, and claims to have spat out some 5,000 wines in selecting the 800 or so offered on the site.

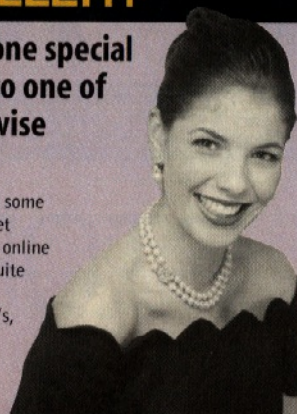
Most eShoppers will head straight for 'find and buy a wine'. Click, and you get a map of France, showing the different wine regions to click on. Or, you can stipulate a price and view the site's recommendations. Once you've decided which is the poison for you, buying comes easy. Cheers!

Do you shop online regularly? If so, tell us! Send an email and a picture to pi@paragon.co.uk with the heading 'Shopaholics'

JEWELLERY

Treat someone special with a trip to one of these Web wise jewellers

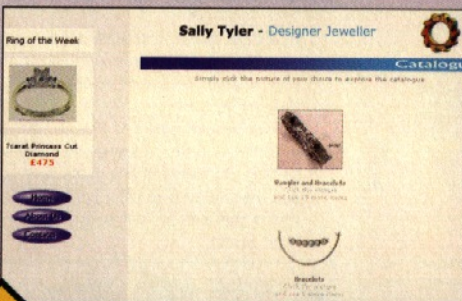
PREPARE to spend some serious cash with Net Shopping's guide to online jewellers! It's not quite the same as taking breakfast at Tiffany's, but you'll find an arsenal of handy and secure shops



Gold Jewellery

www.gold-jewellery.co.uk

You'll find a fair few nuggets here and we're certainly not talking about Steve Davis



Sally Tyler Designer Jewellery

www.gemnet.co.uk/styler

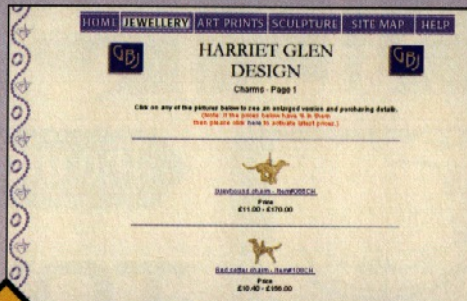
You'll need to have a chat with the bank manager before splashing out on this award-winning jewellery



Scottish Jewellery

www.scottish-jewellery.co.uk

Caledonian Bravehearts can buy Celtic jewellery for their sweethearts at this smart site



Great British Jewellers

www.gbj.co.uk

If you only want the best jewels then gem'll fix it for you here at this upmarket store



Green Frederick

www.green-frederick.co.uk

Buy classy jewels at Green-Frederick, the only site we found that allows you to check your ring size



Jeweller's Net

www.jewellers.net

World Championship Darts is the only place you'll find more jewellery on display than at this site



Shelina Body Piercing

www.shelina.co.uk

Shelina does a good line in the old crown jewels department, if you know what we mean

PET SUPPLIES

Whether you're a cat or dog lover, there are plenty of pet supplies on the Net

YOU can't actually buy a pet online (as far we know) but if you're looking for a rubber bone for Fido or a catnip toy for Felix then you'll find them all on the Net. Let Net Shopping be your guide to the best online pet supplies



PPI Cat Brush (reference #71090)

price £1.36
PPI price only £0.72 (including VAT)

Add to Shopping basket

PPI Cat Brush Budget (reference #71200)

price £1.36
PPI price only £0.67 (including VAT)

Add to Shopping basket

PPI Cat Comb (reference #71207)

price £2.75
PPI price only £1.65 (including VAT)

Petz

www.petz.co.uk

Browse through this shop, get grooming advice or post up a picture of your pet. It's your choice



Animail

www.animail.co.uk

A plethora of goodies, but worth a visit if only to see the crazy waving dog on the intro page



Pets Pyjamas

www.pets-pyjamas.co.uk

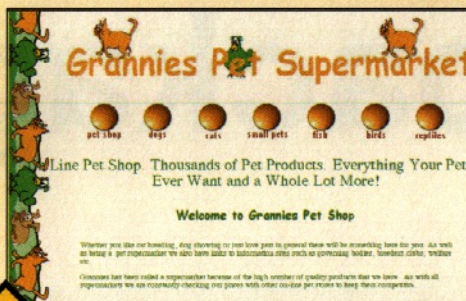
Does this site really sell pyjamas for pets, we hear you cry... No, of course it doesn't



Puchi

www.puchi.co.uk

This peculiarly named site is hound for hound the hottest place online to get dog collars



Grannie's Pets

www.granniespets.co.uk

Granny bears a striking resemblance to Barbara Woodhouse, so we reckon you're in safe hands here



Pet Healthcare

www.pethealthcare.co.uk

Believe it or not, it's now possible to get private insurance for all your beloved pets on the Net



Horse And Country Store

www.ishop.co.uk/ishop/120

Find essential grooming and horse care information here, plus a general store brimming with pet gifts

OFF YOUR TROLLEY

GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD A WORKOUT AT THESE FAB SITES

Here's the news

News channel CNN has opened an online shop at <http://cnn.newlineshop.com> selling CNN branded shirts, backpacks, caps and even the coffee mugs – apparently the same one that the newsmen use!



Classic comedy

From One Foot In The Grave to The Hitch-Hiker's Guide To The Galaxy, you can find your fave TV and radio shows at The Red Shop (www.theredshop.co.uk), a great site selling audio tapes of every description.



What's your tippie?

Raise a glass to Enjoyment (www.enjoyment.co.uk), a new online drinks shop selling a huge range of thirst-quenching tipples from champagne and wine to harder stuff. The site is run by the folk behind Thresher.



Rubber Kenny

Kenny would be proud, Hit TV show South Park has its own condom shop! The site, www.southparkcondoms.com, lets you buy a wide range of rubbers in virtually every colour and flavour you could think of.





Announcing the UK's best value web hosting package...

Unlimited Domain names Unlimited Webpace Unlimited Email Accounts Fast Windows NT Servers

All for a flat monthly fee

**30
Day** **MONEY
BACK
GUARANTEE**

Fasthosts is the UK's largest Web Hosting company, hosting over 11,000 business web sites. We have made a name for ourselves by offering top quality products at prices nobody else can match.

Our technology is among the best in the industry. All our hosting accounts support the following features:

Windows NT Servers running IIS 4

Full support for ASP

Full support for Cold Fusion 4

Full Support for Frontpage 2000 Extensions

Full Support for IHTML

Active State Perl Version 5

Private CGI-BIN for each domain name

LiveStats - Realtime statistics for your websites

Virtual Control Panel - Control everything from the web

We offer both Reseller accounts, for those who want to host multiple websites and personal accounts for customers who wish to host just one site. Whichever option you choose, you can rely on us for 7 day a week world class FREEPHONE technical support.

Reseller Account

The Fasthosts Reseller Account offers hosting of an *unlimited* number of domain names, all for one low monthly fee

- Host unlimited domain names
- Unlimited Webpace
- Unlimited Email Accounts on any of your domains
- Unlimited FTP Accounts for each domain
- Seperate Control Panel for each of your domains

£30 / Month or £300 / Year

Personal Account

The Personal Account is ideal if you want just one domain name

- Your choice of domain name
- 10 mb of Webpace
- Unlimited Email Accounts @yourdomain

£60 / Year

Domain Name Registration

Register any UK domain name (eg: .co.uk or .org.uk) for only **£14.95 per two years** including all local fees.

For a limited period, all new accounts include one FREE domain name.

Domains can be registered instantly using our Virtual Control Panel



All accounts include access to our famous Virtual Control Panel where you can instantly control all aspects of your account. Using our VCP you can establish a new website on the Internet in minutes.



CALL US FREE ON 0800 358 9990

Fax: 01452 541633

www.fasthosts.co.uk

support@fasthosts.co.uk

www.get-your.co.uk



*or your
.com!*

Online Domain Name Registration
includes:

**Real-Time Online Setup
Web & Email Forwarding
Optional Holding Webpage
Free Email Autoresponder
Easy web-based administration
Domain Registration fees
2nd year free**

www.get-your.co.uk



**WEBFUSION
WELCOME**



Surf to
**OR CALL 0115
9170000**

WORK FROM HOME AT A BARGAIN

Why get stuck in commuter hell when the Internet allows you to work from home? **ALEX WADDINGTON** shows you how to build the perfect home office to fit your budget

Until recently, the suggestion that you might be better off working from home would have given the boss life-endangering palpitations. In those dark days, teleworking was still regarded by many companies as a dirty word.

Now, with Net access and videoconferencing becoming more commonplace, companies are encouraging their employees to relieve the strain of commuting by staying at home. In some cases, they're even ordering staff out of the office. At Cisco systems, for example, it's got to the stage where employees have to book a desk before they can even contemplate turning up at the office.

Teleworking has been on the increase across Europe and according to recent figures from the European Commission, over nine million Europeans worked from home in 1999 – a figure which has doubled in the space of just 12 months.

Playing from home

There are a number of reasons you might decide to make the change and join this growing army of home

workers. Perhaps you're planning to start up your own business. Or maybe your employer has been encouraging you to spend less time in the office. Alternatively, you may just be totally fed up with the rigours of travelling to and from work every day and have decided that you can work far more productively from the comfort of your own home.

No matter what reason you choose to boot the office into touch, you're going to need some help. What hardware will be needed to convert your study into a working office? What ISP and Internet access solution will you require? And if you're running your own business how will you plan your Web site?

Over the next six pages we've planned out three different set-ups that will help you get organised properly to work from home. We've gone for a budget rig for those who only home work occasionally and which will get you going for under £1,000; an intermediate set-up for regular home workers with a larger budget to play with, which tots up to just under £2,500; and an advanced system for those with cash to burn, like a spare £10,000 say, who want only the very best equipment.



Under £1,000.....Page 28



Under £2,500.....Page 30



Under £10,000 Page 32

BUILD A HOME OFFICE FOR: UNDER £1,000

Working from your own home needn't cost a small fortune

When you work from home it's imperative you have the right equipment. But don't just rush down to the nearest PC World and grab the first shiny new computer you see. Depending on what you're going to be doing, a slightly older and more basic PC set-up may suffice. If your job involves tasks such as word processing and database work, you needn't spend a fortune. So think ahead and avoid impulse buying.



Russell Mead (pictured) is a part-time home worker and uses a similar set-up to the one featured here. "Working from home was very difficult at first, as you need a lot of motivation. I had no intention of joining the teleworking club until I read an article about it, suddenly it dawned on me how stressed and tired I was looking, and I decided to make the break. It was the best decision I have ever made, my mates think I'm a lazy layabout, but the fact is that at home, I probably work harder than them!"



GADGETS AND GIZMOS

TOTAL COST: £76

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦



Pager

This little baby doesn't just look the business, it'll help you do the business. It allows people to contact you urgently if you're using your phone line for the Internet and it's also a way to ensure you can be contacted when you pop down Sainsbury's for a sandwich. Buy it for £50 from www.vodafone-retail.co.uk.



Tiny phone

At just £20, the Tiny Phone from 4Front (www.4front.co.uk) is a bloody useful gadget. Instead of having a phone that hogs your desktop and gets tangled up with your mouse, how about one that sits in the corner of your monitor.



Fingerboard

A great way to kill time while you're waiting for slow Web pages to load. This £6 desktop skateboard (www.hotbox.co.uk) will also stop your poor tired fingers seizing up after a hard typing session. Tricks range from easy to difficult, although we found fingerboarding considerably easier than the real thing.

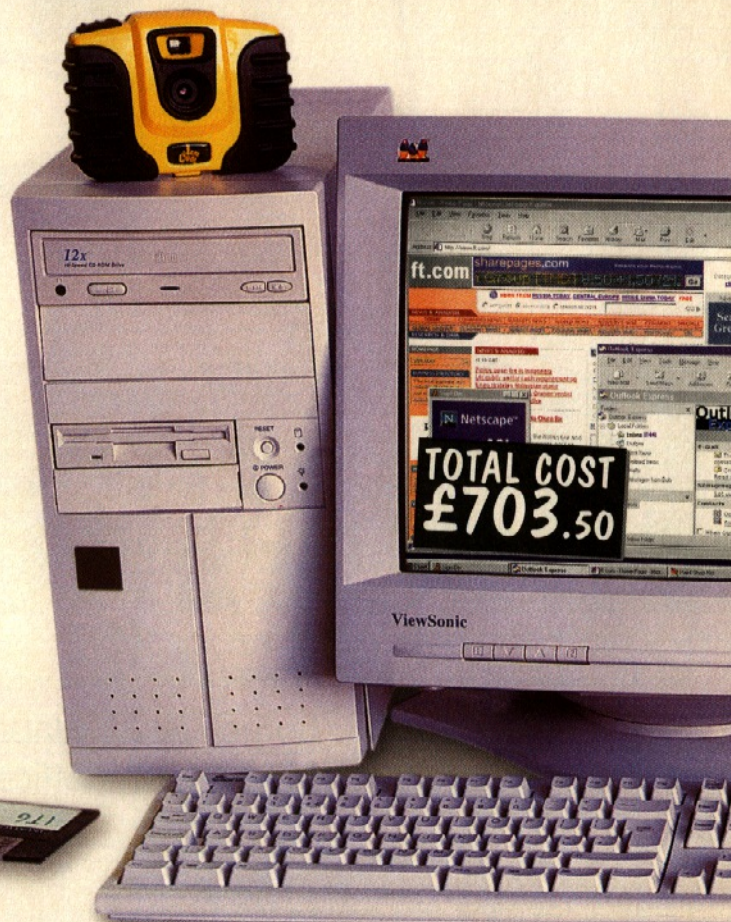
INTERNET ACCESS

COST: £0 PER MONTH

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

WITH so many free ISPs vying for your custom it can be difficult knowing which to choose. *Practical Internet* recommends using LineOne (www.lineone.net), which came out top in our last free ISP test in issue 32. LineOne provides you with ten email addresses and 50Mb of Web space. Our test also showed them to offer both a reliable and speedy service. Of the other free ISPs worth installing UK Online (www.ukonline.co.uk) offers unlimited Web space, BT Clickfree (<http://btclick.excite.co.uk>) provides unlimited email addresses and Bigwig (www.bigwig.net) also received our seal of approval in issue 32.

Another option you might consider is going for an 0800 service. If you read the feature, 'Break Free From Call Costs', in issue 36 of *Practical Internet*, you'll know all about the pros and cons of this type of Internet access. One of the only ISPs currently offering genuine freephone access is CallNet 0800 (www.callnet0800.co.uk), although at the time of writing registration has been suspended due to demand. If you choose CallNet as your ISP make sure you install another free ISP from the list above as back-up.



THE COMPUTER

COST: £465

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

THE Computer Company (London) Ltd specialises in unbranded PCs. On its site we found a mini-tower with an AMD 400Mhz processor, sound and video capabilities, 4.3Gb hard disk, 14" monitor, 32Mb SDRAM and a 44 speed CD ROM drive – for under £500.



THE STORAGE SOLUTION

COST: £3.50 FOR 10

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IT'S always wise to back up your most important work. Unfortunately, powerful storage solutions will set you back a hefty wad of notes. But if your important files are made up of Word, Excel and HTML files, you can easily fit them onto a floppy from Bigrom (www.bigrom.co.uk).

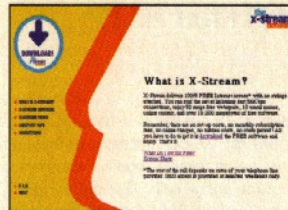


INTERNET PROVIDER

COST: £0 PER MONTH
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

THE X-Stream Network (www.x-stream.com) is a popular ISP that's just begun offering its subscribers an 0800 access service. There's no set-up fee for full Net and email access and the 50Mb of free Web space provided should be more than enough for any small business looking to get its name known around the world. To qualify for these treats, telephone **0800 358 5678** or visit the X-Stream Web site.

If you're working from home, one of the most important things is reliability. If the boss wants you to email him some work urgently, you don't want your ISP to be unavailable and if you need to quickly grab some figures from the Web, you don't want to be seeing error messages. No need to worry, our Free ISP test in issue 32 found X-Stream to be a highly reliable service. Also remember that it can be a good idea to try out other ISPs occasionally, too. Excellent alternatives to X-Stream worth investigating further include LineOne, BT Clickfree and Bigwig, as mentioned earlier.

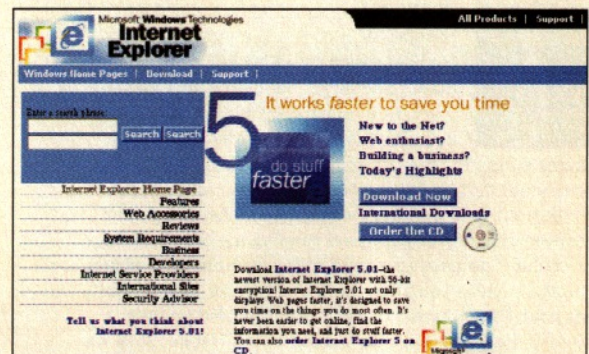


SOFTWARE

COST: £0
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you've not got any software to read your emails with, you're not going to be very productive. One of the world's most widely used email clients is Microsoft Outlook, which comes as part of the Microsoft Internet Explorer Web browser – you'll find it on the majority of free ISPs installation disks. For those who want to get onto the Net quickly, Explorer is a good option. Best of all, it's totally free and easily available. You'll even find it on our cover CD.

Another piece of software you may like to consider if you're working from home is AOL Instant Messenger. This can be used with any ISP to talk to other AIM users around the world. It's great if you regularly need to discuss things with people and a much better conversational medium than email – the good news is that it can be used with any ISP. So if you're using CallNet 0800 you can talk over important matters with people anywhere in the world! Get it free from www.aol.co.uk/aim.



WEB SITE

COST: £0
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

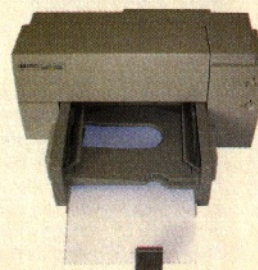
IF you're running a business from home, it's imperative that you have a Web presence. To start with, you could make use of your ISP's free Web space. UK Online (www.ukonline.co.uk), for example, actually offers its subscribers unlimited free Web space. To build your online presence you should go for a powerful, cheap and easy-to-use HTML editor. To find one suited to you, turn to page 40, where we've tested 12 of them. You'll find many of the programs featured on this month's cover CD. If you want your own unique domain name on the cheap, you could sign up with Freenetname (www.freenetname.co.uk), which offers free '.co.uk' URLs to subscribers.



THE CAMERA

COST: £90
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you want to add pictures to your business Web site, a digital camera is the quickest way to do it. Until recently, though, they haven't been cheap to buy. The Jam C@m (www.pow-dist.co.uk) is available for less than £100, although picture quality isn't fantastic



THE PRINTER

COST: £69
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IT'S surprising how much we still rely on paper and ink. To run a business from home you'll need a cheap inkjet for churning out things like invoices, official letters and even press releases. Printer supplied by SMC Direct (www.smcdirect.com, 01753 550333).

BUILD A HOME OFFICE FOR: UNDER £2,500

Loosen those purse strings a little and make some Net gains

Full-time home working requires a slightly more expensive PC set-up. With so much resting on your ability to access information through your computer, you should go for a branded beast with at least a year's warranty. Writer Jo Chipchase (pictured) spends her days running Web design company Can-U-Hack-It (www.can-u-hack-it.com) from home. She might go for this type of set-up, with the fast V.90 modem and cheap but adequate Webcam. "Working from home suits me, as I can structure projects flexibly and carry out certain tasks when I feel inspired – which is important with creative work such as Web design and copywriting. After two years running my own business, I couldn't go back to a rigid office environment, where productivity is too often measured by how long you sit at your PC without moving. I never get fed up with Can-U-Hack-It, while my old working lifestyle made me feel stifled and depressed."



GADGETS AND GIZMOS

TOTAL COST: £180

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

Zoom Webcam ISA

THIS £50 piece of kit can be used for both work and play. Use it to take instant still pictures of products and send them to clients by email. Using free Microsoft Net Meeting software (www.microsoft.co.uk), you can also hold meetings with other people. Or, if you're bored, make rude gestures at your mates.



Bosch 909s Mobile Phone

EVEN when you're out of the office, you can keep in touch. Using this sexy £100 handset from Bosch (www.bosch.co.uk) and One2One's mobile email service (www.one2one.co.uk), you can send, receive and forward emails. This 109g phone also boasts built-in data facilities.



Powerball

GIVE your wrists a workout! No, not like that, but using this fiendish device. The Powerball is a basically a furious rotor inside a compact sphere of plastic. Co-ordination and muscle development are achieved as hand, wrist and arm muscles act to counter the gyroscopic force! See www.hotbox.co.uk.



INTERNET ACCESS

COST: UP TO £420 PER ANNUM
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF your business is too important to risk the unreliability of 0800 services you're going to have to pay for your Net access. Unfortunately, working from home usually requires making expensive daytime phone calls. One option for light users is to put your ISP dial-up number on your BT Friends and Family list (www.bt.com) or even as your Best Friend. Slightly sad, but it will save you money! Heavier users could sign up to AOL's 'Off-Peak All The Time' (www.aol.co.uk) which, for a £9.99 monthly subscription fee, offers Net access for 1p a minute, 24 hours a day seven days a week. Or you could go for a compromise and pay for reliable 0845 access during the day and use a limited 0800 service like X-Stream (www.x-stream.co.uk) in the evening and at weekends. Or perhaps you might be tempted by BT's soon-to-launch Surftime (www.bt.com) service which gives 0800 access for £35 a month.



THE COMPUTER

COST: £1204

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you're looking for the latest in PC technology, try this PC from Mesh (www.meshplc.co.uk) where you can get an Intel Pentium III Processor that runs at 500Mhz. There's also 128Mb of RAM, a 19 inch digital colour monitor, a 10Gb hard drive and a speedy DVD / CD ROM.



THE STORAGE SOLUTION

COST: £169

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you're doing a lot of work from your home PC, your hard drive is going to fill up with emails, documents and graphic files. This could seriously slow you down, so as a solution, try archiving items to Zip drive. The 250Mb discs that the drives use are also good for back-ups.



INTERNET PROVIDER

COST: £0

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

FOR those of you looking to work from home on a budget, 0800 ISPs such as CallNet may be a good option. But if you're looking for a reliable service that's not going to leave engaged tones ringing in your ears, try a free service like LineOne (www.lineone.net). It came out top in our ISP test in issue 32. To sign up to the service, go to the Web site and follow the instructions. In terms of reliability, Line One came out as the clear winner. This is obviously a great thing if you need to update your Web site several times a day, as someone selling the latest software and hardware might need to. The connection speed was also very consistent, ranging from 44k to 46k, saving you precious pennies on your telephone bill. Finally, another feature that caught our eye was LineOne's excellent range of help services.



SOFTWARE

COST: FREE

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you're looking for a Web browser and email program that gives you that little bit more than Explorer and Outlook Express, try Netscape Communicator, on our CD. The package includes a Web browser (Navigator), a home page builder (Composer) and a news reader and email client (Messenger, which lets you do all sorts of cool things like set up a mailing list for all your clients). Alternatively, you may want to try the excellent Eudora Light that hogs very little system space and has loads of powerful features. Even better than that, it's on our cover CD for your pleasure.



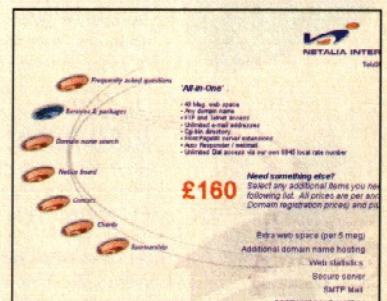
WEB SITE

COST: £199 PER ANNUM

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦



PUTTING your business's Web site on to your free ISP's server is adequate for small operations. But if you're looking for that extra bit of professionalism, you should consider using a hosting service like Web Fusion (www.webfusion.co.uk). For an annual fee of £199, you get a generous 100Mb of Web space, 100 POP3 mail boxes and registration of your own domain name. This means an end to long URLs which could be difficult for people to remember and with a dedicated service there's less chance your site will go down. Other services worth checking out include Rapid Site (www.rapidsite.co.uk) and Natalia (www.natalia.com).

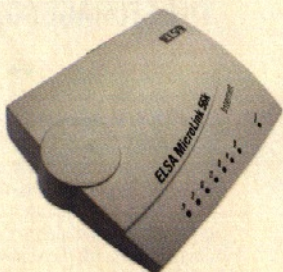


THE MODEM

COST: £60

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

WHEN you buy your computer, you could pay an extra £25 for an internal 56k modem. But for just £60, the Elsa MicroLink modem is a cracking buy. It came out with 90 per cent in our modem tests (P135) and it's easy to see why. It's compact and supports both V.90 and K56flex.



THE PRINTER

COST: £179

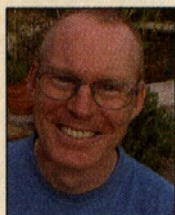
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

IF you're looking to add a bit of pizzazz to your business, try the snazzy Lexmark Z51. It will provide you with laser-quality text and photo printing with no concession to speed. The Lexmark Z51 is also useful for designing your own letterheads and CD labels.

BUILD A HOME OFFICE FOR: UNDER £10,000

Go computer crazy and splash out on a pukka Mac set-up

This is a set-up for the kind of high-flyers who lunch with the bank manager every day. A high-powered computer like a Mac G4 is ideal for memory-hungry users like DTP operators, Web designers and computer programmers. Steve Patient is



a *Practical Internet* regular and an esteemed technology expert. A set-up like this would probably suit him down to the ground. "Work from home and no one whinges when you take an afternoon nap. The Net makes teleworking easier and it's a brilliant research tool, but my current £1,500 a year

telephone bill is a big overhead. To my various employers I'm an email address; which makes geographic location and working hours irrelevant. The Net is an excellent communication tool but doesn't provide a social life so loneliness is a problem. You still need iron self discipline to succeed."



GADGETS AND GIZMOS

TOTAL COST: £2612
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦



Nokia WAP Phone

If you've seen the smash film *The Matrix*, this £130 baby will need no introduction. The Nokia 7110 (www.orange.co.uk) is one of the most eagerly awaited mobile phones ever. Along with the cool 'James Bond' feature – flick a button and the protective cover slides down – you can also use it to surf the Net.



Intellimouse

THROW out those crummy free mouse mats, because this £50 rodent doesn't need one. Microsoft (www.microsoft.com/uk) has replaced the gunk-prone rubber track ball on traditional mice with an optical sensor. This so-called 'IntelliEye' reflects even the tiniest movements – it even works on your leg!



AIBO Robot Dog

HOW will this canine help you work from home. Well, actually, he won't. In fact he's likely to make you less productive than ever before. For a little over £2,000 you can own your own AIBO (www.world.sony.com/robot). The more you play, the more he learns. A ridiculous luxury, but tempting.

INTERNET ACCESS

COST: £530 PER ANNUM
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

WITH some serious wonga at your disposal, you don't want to be wasting time waiting for your V.90 connection to upload and download data. So what's the solution? Integrated Services Digital Network, or ISDN, was first unveiled by BT in the early Eighties. Unlike 56k modems, ISDN always connects at top speed – it's either 64Kbps or nothing. So when you pay for ISDN you know that you're going to get high speed connection. BT sells a range of packages – see its Web site at www.bt.com for more information. But perhaps the most suitable option for home workers is Home Highway. This lets you convert your existing BT line into an ISDN line for £50. Once this is done, you will find you have two lines – one for the Internet and one to make telephone calls on, which is very useful. On top of the set-up fee, there's also a monthly line rental charge of £40. This does include £13 worth of calls, though.



THE COMPUTER

COST: £4,387
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

THE Apple G4 (www.apple.co.uk) costs £2,037, with a 400MHz processor. We've added an 18-inch LCD monitor, £2,350 from LG (www.lge.co.uk). If you're strictly Windows, check out business PCs from Dell (www.dell.co.uk), or Compaq (www.compaq.co.uk).



THE STORAGE SOLUTION

COST: £249
IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦♦

USE Memorex's (www.memorex.co.uk) Duo BBQ 100 CD burner to instantly back-up vital emails, Web pages and other important documents. Or use it to create great presentations and interactive catalogues on CD, why bother with boring old paper?

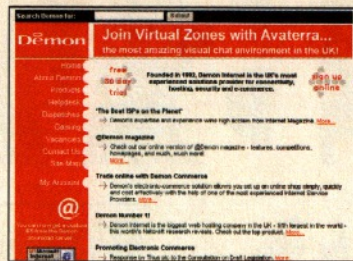
INTERNET PROVIDER

COST: £141 PER ANNUM

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦

DON'T be fooled into thinking that just because BT is providing your ISDN line, you have to use its ISPs. In fact, it's worth considering paying a small monthly fee for your Net access, in return for a solid and totally reliable ISP. One of the most respected 'pay' ISPs in the Internet world is Demon Internet.

(www.demon.net). It has been providing Net access since 1992 and still survives in today's fierce free ISP market, which says a lot about the quality of its service. The '@demon' email address also has a certain kudos, and is likely to gain you respect from other clients and associates. To sign up to the service, go to the Web site and register online. Demon even gives you a free 30 day trial, so you can test the speed and reliability of its service before you sign up. Also on offer are a range of other business services to suit your needs.



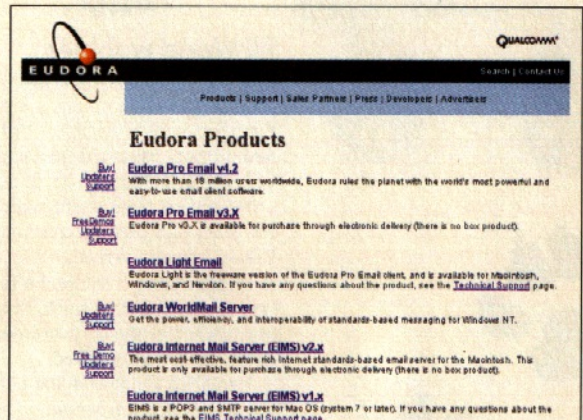
SOFTWARE

COST: UP TO £155 PER ANNUM

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦

IF you're looking for the ultimate email program, try Eudora (www.eudora.com). It's even better than the excellent (and free) Eudora Light.

Thanks to a generous move by Qualcomm, you can now get the latest version of Eudora for free – as long as you're prepared to put up with on-screen adverts. Or if you find them annoying, you can pay \$50 (£35) for the unadulterated version. The new program includes extensive filtering capabilities and automatic spell checking. And if you work as part of a team, take a look at Internet-based Contacter (www.contacter.com) – an excellent piece of contact management software. It will cost about £10 a month when it launches next year.

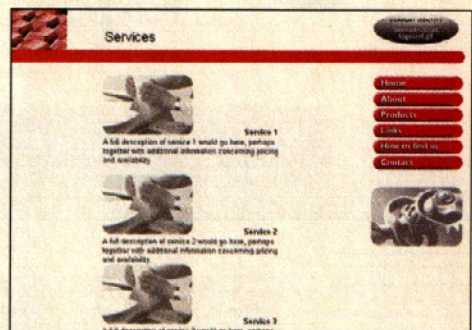


WEB SITE

COST: £795 PER ANNUM

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦

CONSIDER getting in a Web design agency to give your site that extra cutting edge look. Take a look at which small businesses have the best Web sites and get in touch with their design companies to discuss your needs. Alternatively, Demon Internet, the first British ISP, set up by Cliff Stanford (pictured), provides a whole range of useful services, such as Web hosting and even e-Commerce facilities. For £495 you can have your Web site fully designed and hosted. Simply supply it with details about you or your company and it will build a six page Web site and register a domain name of your choice. Web hosting costs an extra £25 per month.



THE CAMERA

COST: £539

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦

HAVING a top-notch digital camera like this Epson PhotoPC 800 is definitely a bonus. The better the quality of the pictures, the better the impression you will make. Investing in a decent digital camera will give you the option of sending instant product pictures to clients by email.



THE PRINTER

COST: £329

IMPORTANCE: ♦♦♦♦

HAVING a mono laser printer like the Xerox DocuPrint P8ex (www.xerox.co.uk) has obvious advantages. For a start, you can produce your own professional letterheads and labels. If you've put together a document for your company, you can churn it out at eight pages per minute.



PC World wobbler

I've been experiencing problems with PC World's online shop. About a month ago I ordered Dreamweaver from them for an unbelievable £199 (inc. VAT). I hadn't found this product cheaper anywhere on the Net and, believe me, I'd looked hard. So I happily placed my order and received confirmation from PC World that the order had been received and anxiously awaited Dreamweaver's arrival.

A week later, I received a message saying the product was currently out of stock, but it didn't say anything about whether the software was on back order or if my order had been cancelled.

I emailed PC World and politely asked them what the status of my order was. Their response was that Dreamweaver was no longer available through the Web site and the order had to be cancelled. I was disappointed, and decided to check the Web site to see if the product was still on offer – sure enough, it was! I then sent PC World an email suggesting the product be removed as I felt this was misleading.

A month down the line and Dreamweaver was still shown on their Web site as available. I would imagine I'm not the only person to waste my time entering details to obtain this product and I would think a company as large as this would be more diligent in keeping product availability updated.

K McKee, Swindon



It's certainly concerning that an out of stock product could remain on PC World's site for so long. Web Watchdog tracked down Abigail Willis from the Dixons group, which owns PC World. She said, "We have looked in to this matter very carefully."

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

Huge range of PC games from £9.99

PC WORLD

online store

business direct

freeserve

store finder

free serve

www.freeserve.net



Online Store

Whatever your PC needs, visit the new look PC World on-line store. Whether you are a home user, small business or work from home, we have the answer - from software to furniture. With over 2,000 of the latest and best selling business, games and family software titles and over 250 DVD movies to choose from, PC World on-line can supply your every need direct to your door. If you don't want to wait for your software to be delivered, we offer a choice of over 150,000 software titles that can be downloaded directly onto your PC.

MP3 Technology

Download your favourite MP3 files from the web & play the latest Digital Audio format on a portable MP3 player. Visit any PC World store for the best range of portable MP3 players - prices starting from £99.99

Freeserve

Freeserve is the UK's first fully featured free Internet service. There are no registration or set-up fees and no monthly subscription charges to pay. The only thing you pay for is the local rate phone call to access the service. Calls will appear on your phone bill in the usual way.

Store Finder

Britain's largest and leading computer retailer, with 73 superstores across the UK, in a location near your town.

Business Direct

PC World Business Direct is a major player in the direct provision of I.T. products and services to the business user. 250 people offering a total IT solution for the business customer.

"You've Got Mail!"

Now **250 Hours FREE!**

with the **ALL NEW AOL 5.0**

[Click Here!](#)

Unfortunately it seems, for one reader at least, that AOL's new service offers little to get excited about

We can confirm that the product has now been removed from the PC World Web site and we apologise for any inconvenience that has been caused."

Take Five from AOL? Not for me, pal

I've been with AOL for two years but am now moving to a free provider. I've forked out for AOL, but the service has simply not moved on. Version 3.0 was OK, 4.0 was no great advance, but initially 5.0 was a disaster. It was slow and suffered numerous drop outs which made surfing a very dangerous pursuit.

AOL's '1p all the time' rate looks good on the face of it, but the real clincher for me is the speed with which AOL 5.0 works. Clearly, charging by the minute is going to net AOL more with a slow service than a quick one, but I can't help thinking perhaps these slow connections are intentional?

My other gripe is the amount of spam I get. AOL lets you filter out mail but it's woefully inadequate. Barring sender names is useless given that most spammers change names regularly, and no service exists to filter mail containing specific words like, for example, mortgage, teenagers or adult!

I tried to cancel my AOL membership, but they didn't want me to go. 'Try the penny per minute deal,' they cried. I explained my situation but they hit back: 'Have a free month and use our 0800 freephone number to compare performance.' I gave in, thinking to myself: 'I've saved £9.99 and can cancel next month anyway.'

Best Offer Yet!

250 HOURS FREE!

in your first month AND **ALL NEW AOL 5.0**

see bottom for details

3 Easy Ways
To Get the ALL NEW America Online!

1 1-800-300-2160 CALL NOW!

2 DOWNLOAD NOW!
CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD!

3 ORDER NOW!
CLICK HERE TO ORDER!

5 Great Reasons to Try America Online Today!

- NEW E-mail addresses for every account!
- FREE "My Calendar" and one-click access to the latest news, movie listings, local weather, sports, and even local minute board listings!
- ALL NEW even easier to use e-mail. View photos with

AMERICA Online

WDOG

Been ripped off by an ISP, online shop or other Internet company?

If so, let Practical Internet unleash its Web Watchdog to get straight to the bottom of all your problems

But, strangely, they also told me that the performance problems with AOL 5.0 had been overcome. Then I got an email telling me how to check my performance using the grandly named Super Tunnels and PPP Enablement. I tried the instructions and, sure enough, the performance was quicker. Why don't all AOL's members get instructions like these? Although they weren't all that clear, I definitely got a faster response from the system after trying them. Why is it that you never get help until it's way too late?

Roll on Free 24/7 access. Only then will we really use the Net like the Americans, for whom local calls are always free.

Peter Bromley



Web Watchdog put your points to AOL and its spokesperson, Jocelyn Cole, provided this comprehensive response:

"Firstly, we'd like to apologise to Mr Bromley for the problems he's been experiencing with AOL 5.0, our latest software. We had a number of intermittent problems affecting a number of our members using AOL 5.0 on some of our access numbers. I'm happy to say that our network technicians have isolated the cause of this problem, which is now being resolved.

"The technical instructions Mr Bromley describes were an interim measure communicated to some members using AOL 5.0 on certain access numbers. Our AOL 'Off-Peak All The Time' 1p per minute pricing scheme has proven to be extremely popular with members. It's simple, transparent and very cost-effective, especially for families with children. Mr Bromley is fortunate to have a 90 per cent subsidy on the cost of his home telephone bill. Sadly, most families aren't in that position; for them, the cost of standard per-minute telephone rates remains the biggest single barrier to spending more time online.

"Spam – junk email – is an industry-wide problem. AOL is leading industry attempts to deal with this annoying nuisance and our members can use a range of Parental Controls to block unwanted mail. We also take action at source to prevent 'spammers' from abusing the service.

"Finally we share Mr Bromley's belief that consumers in the UK deserve affordable, unlimited flat-rate Internet telephone access. In the US, where local calls are charged at a flat-rate (they're not actually 'free', as Mr Bromley says), the Internet is becoming a true mass consumer medium, central to the daily lives of millions of people. For more than a year now, AOL Europe has been leading a consensus of consumer groups, industry analysts, regulators and politicians, all of whom share a common desire to bring the benefits of unmetered Internet access to the UK."

Family misfortunes

I recently visited Family Tree Maker (www.familytreemaker.com) to download one of the genealogy trees they have for sale. I handed



Update: Jungle.Com

FOLLOWING complaints about online shopping site Jungle.com in Web Watchdog (*Practical Internet* issues 34 and 36), the store was recently booted out of the Which? Web Trader scheme that's run by the Consumers Association.

Red-faced Steve Bennett, chief executive officer of Jungle.com, said: "We were unable to offer a decent level of customer service. I'm sorry that we got it wrong, but we have taken immediate action to put things right. We are putting our hands up and saying we just didn't expect the level of demand that we got."

As we went to press, Jungle.com was putting its arguments to the Consumers Association on getting re-instated into the Which? scheme. Watch this space for more developments.



over my credit card details, the tree downloaded and I printed out the instructions – but I obviously got it wrong somewhere along the line.

The \$19 I paid was only for a nine day licence and I have tried to email the company. They do have a UK contact number, but it is totally useless – I therefore cannot contact them and wondered if you can help me. Any suggestions?

Rosena



You're right about the UK contact number – it's only for distribution and marketing of the software in this country. Nevertheless, Web Watchdog

got on the trail and managed to track down Bryan Jennings, Technical Services Manager at Family Treemaker's parent company, Genealogy.Com.

This is what he said: "Unfortunately, I cannot address the customer's issues directly as there is not enough information in the message to determine exactly where the process failed.

"However, the customer can receive support by emailing support@familytreemaker.com with details concerning the issue. As always, the more details she can provide, the more specific a technical support representative can be with their answer."

And that's all he had to say – it looks like you'll have to try again, Rosena. If you have any further problems then be sure to come back to Web Watchdog. We'll tackle him again.





FamilyTreeMaker.com

The largest and most complete online genealogy resource

Find Family | How-To Articles | Helpful Web Sites | World Family Tree | Search

Genealogy Help | Community | Books | Family Archive CDs | Family Tree Maker

Find Your Family on Web sites, CDs, & More

Internet Family Finder - Search 420 million names:

First Name Middle Last Name

Go

[Help](#) | [Choose Search Locations](#)

Site Features

- Site Map
- New to Genealogy?
- Free Materials
- Guest Book

Site Favorites



Find Family
Web Sites, CDs, Online Data, Social Security, Email Directories, Phone Books, Civil War Data



Genealogy Help
Step-by-Step Guide, Address, Classes, Biography Assistant, FTM Tech Support



Community
Message Boards, Classifieds, Home Page, Forum, Mail, News

Just Released!

FTM 7.0

Maps and More... Order or Get More Info

Great Interest!

NEW -- Add Photos to Your FamilyTreeMaker.com Home Page. Plus files, links, trees...try now!

[Edit Home Page](#) | [Create Home Page](#)

\$9,999 NEW Forum - Come Meet!
Find & share family info FREE in GeoForum's 3 million messages.

GenealogyLibrary.com - FREE for Friends!
Give all your friends one free week at GenealogyLibrary.com, our collection of 2192 genealogy databases. Simply subscribe before 12/24/99 and receive a password to share with friends and family. One more reason to subscribe: More new exact images! Already a subscriber? Your password will arrive via e-mail soon.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

GET YOUR GRIPES SORTED

HAVE you hit a problem with your Internet service provider, a Web site, Net software program or an online shopping service? Write to us at Web Watchdog, Practical Internet, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS, or send an email marked 'Watchdog' to watchdog@paragon.co.uk – please note that we cannot guarantee to provide a reply to every letter received.

THE BEST INTERNET SPECIFIC SITES

WhatIs.com

www.whatIs.com
An A-Z of how IT and the Net works, from the @ symbol to "Z39.50" (you what?).

Webopaedia

www.pcwebopaedia.com
A nifty dictionary and search engine.

TUCOWS

www.tucows.com
Software downloads for everything but the kitchen sink, covering most platforms.

Download.com

www.download.com
A comprehensive software download site, provided by CNET.

Softseek

www.softseek.com
Extensive software archive, with downloads ranging from business tools to leisure.

Dave Central

www.davecentral.com
Shareware, freeware, demos and betas.

Geektools WHOIS

www.geektools.com/whois.html
Enter the domain name or IP address for any Web site, and you'll discover who's behind it.

ANYbrowser.com

www.anybrowser.com
Find out how to make your site compatible with any browser.

CNET.com - Web Building

www.builder.com
All about Web building, with a load of hints, tricks and resources.

Webmonkey

<http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/>
Style sheets, JavaScript code library, HTML cheat sheet, and more.

Net Mechanic

www.netmechanic.com/
Check the HTML, links and download time of your Web pages.

Javascripts.com

www.javascripts.com
Lots of free JavaScripts, and numerous useful links, too.

Matt's Script Archive

www.worldwidemart.com/scripts/
Free Perl scripts for just about every back-end you could desire.

HostedScripts.com

www.hostedscripts.com
Can't deal with all your own Perl scripts? This site will do it all for you.

NUA Internet Surveys

www.nua.ie/surveys/
Useful statistics and information on trends in global Internet growth.

Internet Fraud Watch

www.fraud.org/internet
Acquaint yourself with current Internet scams. Forewarned is forearmed...

Dr Solomon's Virus Central

www.drSolomon.com/vircen
Everything you need to know about viruses, and some things you probably don't.

Anonymizer

www.anonymizer.com
Big brother is watching you surf... but not if you use anonymizer.

Funmail

www.funmail.co.uk
Choose an unusual email address and be the wackiest person in the world.

Net 4 Nowt

www.net4nowt.com
UK directory of free ISPs, with information about telecoms companies, too.

All Free Site

www.allfreewebsite.com
A guide to free resources on the Net, from software to 'earn while you surf' schemes.

Free.com

www.free.com
If it's free, this site will list it.

Beenz

www.beenz.com
Sign up for the Net's main reward scheme... Beenz meenz prizes.

Beaucoup!

www.beaucoup.com
A directory of search engines, with more than 2,000 listed.

Northern Light Search

www.northernlight.com
An excellent search engine that has nothing to do with the Aurora spectacular.

THE WORLD'S 100 MOST USEFUL SITES

What are the most useful sites? We ask **JO CHIPCHASE** to hunt down 100 URLs she couldn't live without

You're seeking information on a particular topic. Would you rather (a) plough through dusty tomes in the public library and get told to be quiet in the process, (b) spend hours trawling on Internet search engines with a random selection of key words, or (c) find a plethora of useful resources quickly, without having to make any effort?

If you answered either (a) or (b) to the above question, you're obviously a sucker for punishment, and deserve to be locked in a municipal library without access to food or beer, and a tutting, maiden aunt of a librarian as your only company. Having to vigorously search for information is needless, as the Internet is - to use the old cliché - a vast global library that puts all manner of resources at your fingertips. However, as with the traditional library, it pays to know where to find something without getting stuck in the cataloguing system (in this case, search engines, which are only as good as their databases and indexing systems). Which is where the following guide comes in - showing you how

to find everything from definitive download sites to helpful household information at the tap of a few keys...

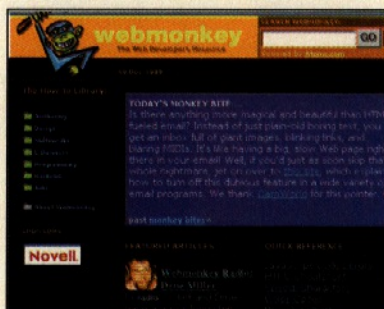
To make it extra easy for you to follow we've broken everything up into four easy categories: Internet, domestic, reference and day-to-day sites.

Spreading the Net wide

The Internet is a pretty big place and it's often difficult to locate definitive sites for general computing resources. For every person who swears by Softseek (www.softseek.com) you'll inevitably find somebody who



Udderly good downloads from TUCOWS



If your site's driving you nuts, try Webmonkey



Rich Clickings has all the best pickings for UK consumers

Get out of the house

If you're fed up with sitting in your chair gawking at your PC, perhaps you need to get out more. A good starting point is SceneOne (www.sceneone.co.uk), which provides the low-down on all manner of events, from gigs (anyone for Black Sabbath... no?) to more sedate stuff, such as theatre and comedy. OK, so you won't find details of free underground parties on here, but the information is pretty useful, and all events are given a one to five star rating, so you can sort the wheat from the chaff. If you can't be bothered to stand in queues for tickets with people who haven't got anything better to do, you can buy tickets directly from the site through the Ticketmaster system.

If you're determined to have a quiet night in, SceneOne's book and video reviews will help you avoid getting a right old turkey of a read or a view, while the searchable TV listings mean you have at least a fighting chance of avoiding a re-run of *The Bill* on ITV2, and won't be caught unawares by That Man Springer.

Aloud.com is worth a look if you want to book mainstream gigs, and www.whatsonstage.com is useful if you're civilised. If you're seeking a more active kinda site, try Off It's Face (www.offitsface.com), which covers clubbing, surfing, mountain biking and other energetic pursuits... including the



Don't make a scene if you're glued to your screen...

unavoidable footie. If you want to go out dancing and get on guest lists, try Club Connexion (www.clubconnexion.co.uk). For those living in ye olde Smoke, Hot Tickets (www.thisislondon.com) does a pretty good job of listing the entertainments – as does *Insomniazine* (www.insomniazine.co.uk) – while Guilfin (guilfin.org) presents South-focused event listings and music reviews.

For more unusual – but nevertheless still useful – sites, have a peak at What It Is.Com (www.whatitis.com) to find out how everything on the Net works (even we don't know all the answers all the time!) or Geek Tools' WHOIS (www.geektools.com/whois.html) which will tell you who's behind every domain name and IP address. Whether it's software or Web directories, this excellent selection of useful and practical sites will save you plenty of time and effort.

Home improvements

Of course there's far more to the Net these days than just techie sites, with a lot of domestic resources all jostling for your online attention. Barely a week goes by without a company launching a new Web site offering a service to make managing your life easier in some way. You probably already know that you can buy a car online, but do you know where to find the right site? Well, visit Car Importing UK (www.carimporting.co.uk) and you'll soon know how to import a much cheaper car from abroad.

Alternatively, introduce some of the old *Changing Rooms* magic into your house by heading for Design-Online (www.design-online.co.uk) where you can search a directory of UK design resources. If the roof's about to fall in and you need to carry out some more drastic work then do a search on BRIX – Find a Builder (www.fmb.org.uk/links) for a man who meets all your requirements. And if you actually want to do any building work yourself and would prefer the job wasn't done by Lee Marvin and his cowboys, check out Ecommend (www.ecommend.co.uk).

Admittedly, it's unlikely you'll undertake major building work every day of the week, so for more

believes TUCOWS (www.tucows.com) is the be-all and end-all for downloading software. Everybody has something specific that they're looking for, mainly download sites, technical information and free sites where they can get scripts or other freebies.

If you want to spice up your Web site with some new scripts we suggest you get on you bike and head for Javascrpts.com (www.javascrpts.com) for all your Java needs. Conversely, Matt's Script Archive (www.worldwidemart.com/scripts) or HostedScripts.com (www.hostedscripts.com) will help you out with some free Perl scripts.

Want to find it fast? Then look on Beaucoup! (www.beaucoup.com) which is a search engine of... search engines. Use Northern Light Search (www.northernlight.com) for up-to-date topics or stick with the tried and tested old favourite Yahoo! (<http://uk.yahoo.com>) for general queries.



The postman always knocks twice

Railtrack's timetable resource is excellent... shame about the trains

What really goes on up your street?

Google

www.google.com
Another good new(ish) search engine.

UK Yahoo!

www.yahoo.co.uk
Yahoo! is still a useful resource.

Dogpile

www.dogpile.com
A handy metasearcher, Dogpile trawls several of the main search engines simultaneously.

Most Popular Keywords

<http://searchenginewatch.internet.com/facts/searches.html>
View live samples of what people are entering into search engines.

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR DAY TO DAY LIVING

Rich Clickings

www.richtickings.co.uk
UK shopping directory.

Yell – Yellow Pages Online

www.eyp.co.uk
Lists more than 1.6 million UK companies.

Design-Online

www.design-online.co.uk
A UK directory of interior design services.

BRIX – Find a Builder

www.fmb.org.uk/links/
Search for a man with the right tools on the Federation of Master Builders' site.

Ecommend

www.ecommend.co.uk
Improve your home without fear of cowboys.

British Gardening Online

www.oxalis.co.uk
A great guide for all things green and growing.

Autobytel UK

www.autobytel.co.uk/
Buy a new or used car without spending loads.

Car Importing from Europe

www.carimporting.co.uk
Import a new car from the continent.

AA Roadwatch

www.theaa.co.uk/motoringandtravel/traffic/
Find out if there's a traffic jam in your area.

UK Speedtraps

www.ukspeedtraps.co.uk
Find out about the latest speed traps.

Cars DIY

www.carsdiy.t9.co.uk
Get under the bonnet of your car, with manuals and online help. Lovely.

UpMyStreet.com

www.upmystreet.com
An excellent guide to property.

Hot Property

www.hot-property.com
A definitive UK property guide, with information on mortgages, council tax and more.

Desktop Lawyer

www.desktoplawyer.net
Inexpensive legal assistance – you can even get a divorce through this site.

Virtually Anywhere

www.virtuallyanywhere.co.uk
A "local department store of professional advisors". Handy.

Money World

www.moneyworld.co.uk
A long-established personal finance site focusing on the stock market.

Money Extra

www.moneyextra.com
A new(ish) site providing comparative information on money matters.

Patient UK

www.patient.co.uk
Look up a whole host of medical complaints.

Womb.com

www.womb.com
Pregnancy reference information.

WebBaby.co.uk

www.webbaby.co.uk
A site created for mums, dads and kids.

Excuse Me

www.homestead.com/ExcuseMe/ExcuseMe.html
A whole host of excuses, including what to say if you're late for work.

The Death Clock

www.deathclock.com
Find out how many seconds you've got left to live, based on average life expectancy predictions. Morbid or what?

NEVER VISIT A REFERENCE LIBRARY EVER AGAIN

BT Phonebook

www.phonenetuk.bt.com:8080/
Search BT's telephone directory by name, area, initials or street.

UK STD Dialling Codes

www.brainstorm.co.uk/utis/std-codes.html
Confused over codes? This site will help you.

Royal Mail

www.royalmail.co.uk
You can calculate postage costs and track special delivery items here.

MET Office

www.met-office.gov.uk
UK-wide weather reports, viewable by region. How to depress yourself...

Multimap

<http://uk.multimap.com>
National searchable Ordnance Survey maps - find the precise location of any postcode.

Railtrack Travel Timetable

<http://195.92.21.203/bin/query.exe/en>
Query the database for accurate times of UK trains... and then pray there isn't a leaf on the track.

The Universal Currency Converter

<http://www.xe.net/ucc/>
Convert the world's main currencies quickly and accurately. The exchange rates are updated each minute.

The World Clock

www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/
Shows current local times around the world.

euroShell Route Planner

www.shell.com/euroshell/routeplanner
Plan your journeys within Europe using Shell's free mapping facility.

AltaVista Translations

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>
Don't get confused with foreign text - feed it to the BabelFish.

English Weights & Measures

home.clara.net/brianp/index.html
A guide to all those confusing weights and measures, with a handy unit converter.

LookupUK

www.lookupuk.com
You can try to find a lost friend or relative using this service. Ahhhh.

Yahoo! People Search

<http://ukie.people.yahoo.com/>
Enter a name, and with any luck you'll get the person's email address.

Public Record Office - Genealogy

www.pro.gov.uk/genealogy/
Look up your family history... you never know what you might find.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

www.britannica.com
A searchable online version of the famous encyclopaedia - truly a veritable wealth of knowledge.

Central Office of Information

<http://pipe.cta.gov.uk/col/colpress.nsf/70pen>
An A-Z of government departments, commissions and Web sites.

Roget's Thesaurus

<http://web.cs.city.ac.uk/text/roget/thesaurus.html>
You'll never be lost for a word with help from Roget's online thesaurus.

Cambridge International Dictionaries

www.cup.cam.ac.uk
If you really want to, you can search dictionaries of English, Phrasal Verbs, or Idioms.

Amazon Books

www.amazon.co.uk
Buy a reference book on any topic you desire from Amazon.

KEEP TABS ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD

BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>
All the latest news from the Beeb, with reports in RealAudio and Video.

The Times

www.thetimes.co.uk
Online versions of quality broadsheets, *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, with supplements, too.

Electronic Telegraph

www.telegraph.co.uk
Comprehensive online version of the ever-sensible broadsheet.

Get out of the house!

If you're fed up with sitting in your chair gawking at your PC, perhaps you need to get out more. A good starting point is SceneOne (www.sceneone.co.uk), which provides the low-down on all manner of events, from gigs (anyone for Black Sabbath... no?) to more sedate stuff, such as theatre and comedy. OK, so you won't find details of free underground parties on here, but the information is pretty useful, and all events are given a one to five star rating, so you can sort the wheat from the chaff. If you can't be bothered to stand in queues for tickets with people who haven't got anything better to do, you can buy tickets directly from the site through the Ticketmaster system.

If you're determined to have a quiet night in, SceneOne's book and video reviews will help you avoid getting a right old turkey of a read or a view, while the searchable TV listings mean you have at least a fighting chance of avoiding a re-run of *The Bill* on ITV2, and won't be caught unawares by That Man Springer.

Aloud.com is worth a look if you want to book mainstream gigs, and www.whatsonstage.com is useful if you're civilised. If you're seeking a more active kinda site, try Off It's Face (www.offitsface.com), which covers clubbing, surfing, mountain biking and other energetic pursuits... including the

everyday resources, use Money Extra (www.moneyextra.com). It will help you plan out financial matters like pensions and mortgages. Hypochondriacs will find Patient UK (www.patient.co.uk) a godsend where they can either find out that they're not actually dying, or discover even more illnesses to worry about. And don't forget good old Yellow Pages (www.yell.co.uk) for when you need to contact that life saving furniture polisher...

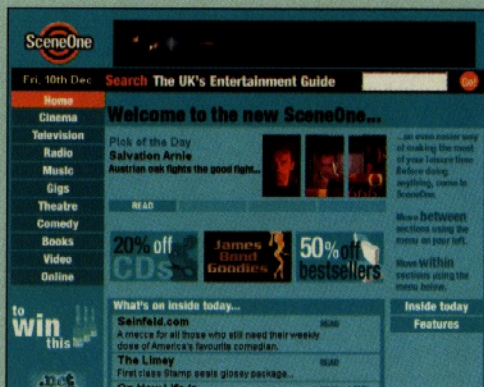
Library lovers

The term Information Superhighway is one of the most revolting clichés associated with the Net, but it's one which has been coined for good reason. There's now so much information and so many records stored on the Net, you could be forgiven for lumping all those old reference books and encyclopaedias down to the nearest bric-a-brac store and putting your faith in the Net.



How many seconds have you got left on this planet... morbid, huh?

Alive and aloud and... anyone for the Smash Hits Poll Winners' Party?



Don't make a scene if you're glued to your screen...

unavoidable footie. If you want to go out dancing and get on guest lists, try Club Connexion (www.clubconnexion.co.uk). For those living in ye olde Smoke, Hot Tickets (www.thisislondon.com) does a pretty good job of listing the entertainments - as does *Insomniazine* (www.insomniazine.co.uk) - while GuilFin (www.guilfin.org) presents South-focused event listings and music reviews.

For all those doubtful words and phrases head for either Roget's Thesaurus (<http://web.cs.city.ac.uk/text/roget/thesaurus.html>) or Cambridge International Dictionaries Online (www.cup.cam.ac.uk), where you can uncover the correct spellings and meanings of words and find out what a big difference there is between entomology and etymology.

To check for more detailed information you could do far worse than spend some time browsing through The Encyclopaedia Britannica (www.britannica.com) or even conceding defeat and popping off to Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk) to buy books on specific subjects.

Have you ever noticed that no matter how many times you ring up you still never know what time a particular train leaves? Banish those call centre blues by giving Railtrack (www.railtrack.co.uk) the once over. When you arrive at your eventual destination a quick visit to Multimap (<http://uk.multimap.com>) will help you find your way round. Just tap in a postcode and retrieve precise directions from the database of searchable Ordnance Survey maps.

For the more mundane things in life that we often take for granted, check out the BT Phonebook (www.phonenetuk.bt.com:8080/) to search for contact details or Royal Mail (www.royalmail.co.uk) to follow the progress of any special deliveries you may have sent.

Day to day

One of the greatest things about the Internet is how good it is for all the day to day stuff we seem to need.

Online newspapers are more up-to-date than printed ones because publishers don't have to print out millions

of copies - they can just update the one Web site. This means that things like entertainment listings can be updated as and when new information arrives. Job hunting also becomes easier when you're

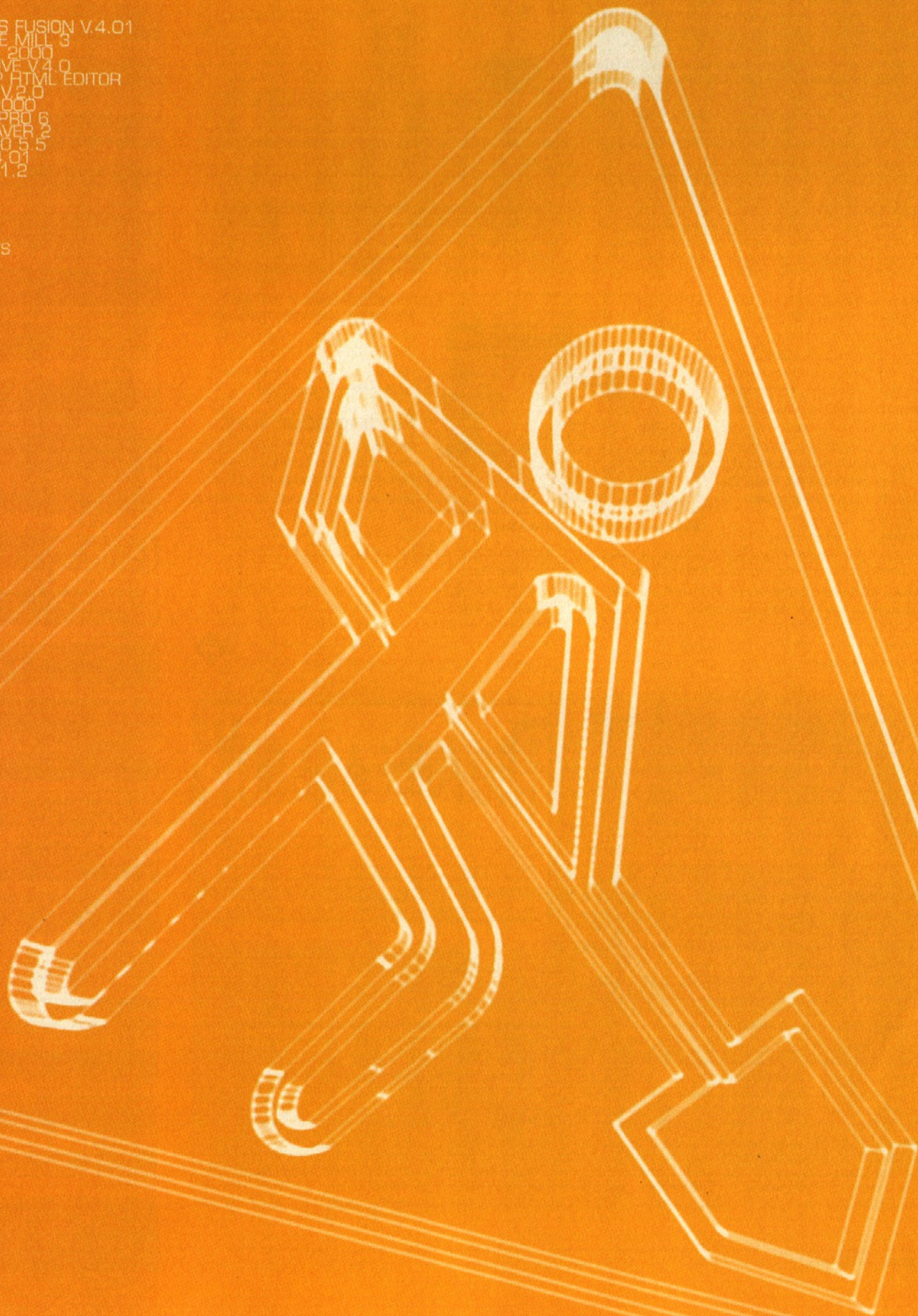
A load of balls? Football365 doesn't think so

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

TWELVE WEB PAGE EDITORS FOR ADDING ADVANCED HTML FEATURES

NETOBJECTS FUSION V.4.01
ADOBE PAGE MILL 3
FRONTPAGE 2000
ADOBE GO LIVE V.4.0
COFFEE CUP HTML EDITOR
COOL PAGE V.2.0
YST PAGE 2000
HOTMETAL PRO 6
DREAMWEAVER 2
HOTDOG PRO 5.5
HOMESITE 4.01
CUTEHTML 1.2

CREATE:
FLASH
JAVASCRIPT
JAVA APPLETS
ROLLOVERS
DHTML



NETOBJECTS FUSION V.4.01
OVERALL: 8
PAGE: 42



ADOBE PAGE MILL 3
OVERALL: 6
PAGE: 42



FRONTPAGE 2000
OVERALL: 8
PAGE: 42



ADOBE COLIVE V.4.0
OVERALL: 9
PAGE: 44



COFFEE CUP HTML EDITOR
OVERALL: 7
PAGE: 44



COOL PAGE V.2.0
OVERALL: 4
PAGE: 44



1ST PAGE 2000
OVERALL: 8
PAGE: 45



HOTMETAL PRO 8
OVERALL: 9
PAGE: 45



DREAMWEAVER 2
OVERALL: 8
PAGE: 45



HOTDOG PRO 5.5
OVERALL: 6
PAGE: 46



HOMESITE 4.01
OVERALL: 6
PAGE: 46



CUTEHTML 1.2
OVERALL: 4
PAGE: 46



Adding advanced HTML features such as Java, DHTML and Flash to your site can be tricky if you don't have the right Web page editor. **ROLAND WADDILOVE** tests a dozen of the best

Not so long ago, the most popular tool for constructing Web pages was a plain text editor like Windows Notepad on the PC or BBEdit on the Mac. Today, there's no need to type pages of complicated HTML tags, forms, image and hypertext links because many programs offer WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editing modes. In fact, it is now possible to create a Web page without knowing any HTML at all.

There are lots of Web page editors that can be downloaded from the Internet for free, so why would anyone pay over £100 in the high street for a package? The main difference between the freebies and the commercial programs is the WYSIWYG editing mode. Freeware tools still force you to enter HTML code, which is slow, prone to errors and limits your design. Top-end packages let you concentrate on the design, content and interactivity, and hardly ever ask you to write any code (but let you do so if you want to).

The interactivity comes from Flash, JavaScript, Java applets, rollovers and DHTML. Although you need nothing more than a plain text editor to incorporate these into a Web page, a good package will make inserting these as painless as possible. Some programs come with libraries of ready-made routines. Menus and dialog boxes prompt you for the required information, making the process much simpler than trying to write the code from scratch. This also speeds up Web site development.

Here we've put 12 of the most popular programs on test. You can find trial versions of 10 of them on our cover CD.



NETOBJECTS FUSION V.4.01

FUSION'S main aim is to get your business online quickly and with the minimum of hassle. You create your Web site using a map view to add pages and link them together in a tree structure. Fusion automatically adds buttons and hyperlinks to the pages to connect them. The design is chosen from a long list of styles, but you can edit them or create and add your own.

The interface isn't as flexible as some of the other programs on test and sometimes it feels very restrictive. It wants to push you along its template-driven route and while it is fine for producing a quick site for your company, creative people who want to produce something unusual that will stand out from the crowd may not like it.

Fusion contains advanced features such as rollovers, ASP extensions, an automatic site map creator, scripted actions, rotating pictures and so on. IBM HotMedia provides animation and other special effects. Unusually, it doesn't have an HTML edit mode, but you do get HomeSite 4 on the CD and this can be used once the site has been published.

NetObjects Fusion is good editor for businesses looking to build an eCommerce site. Version 5 has just been announced, which promises even more features.

PACKAGE: NetObjects

Fusion v.4.01

URL: www.netobjects.co.uk

EMAIL: eurosales@netobjects.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT:

0800 0289851

PRICE: £199



Fusion is geared towards producing business sites quickly and easily

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△

ADOBE PAGEMILL 3

PAGEMILL 3 is a basic Web page creator that enables you to design pages in WYSIWYG mode, which instantly makes it more user friendly than the freeware and shareware tools on test here. Two modes of working are available: HTML and WYSIWYG, both of which you can easily switch between. There's also a preview mode, which removes invisible markers, and you can load the page in your Web browser to double-check the design.

PageMill is very good at what it does, but having said that, it doesn't do very much apart from basic page design. It's never heard of cascading style sheets or DHTML and there is just a simple Insert Java menu option. It doesn't even mention templates anywhere and it only considers the page you are working on, so if you change a style or design that change won't be reflected throughout the site.

All of this conspires to give the program quite a dated look and feel. In an effort to increase the appeal of the program there is an excellent library of extras on the CD, such as Java applets, JavaScript routines, sounds, animated GIFs, Shockwave programs, Photoshop 3 LE, a Web server and so on. This is a good tool for novices, but too limited for professionals.

PACKAGE: Adobe Page Mill

URL: www.adobe.co.uk

EMAIL: www.adobe.co.uk/misc/comments.html

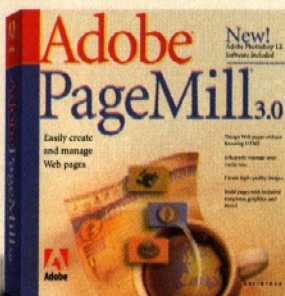
UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: 0181 606 4000

PRICE: £92



PageMill is dated, but is very easy to use and works in WYSIWYG and HTML modes. Lots of extras on the CD

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△



Should you use free Web space or buy it?

ALL Internet service providers give you a certain amount of free space on their Web servers for you to use, so without spending any money at all, it is possible to create a Web site and make it available to the whole world. So why do people still pay then?

Limitations are placed on free Web servers and sometimes that means carrying an advertising banner, or restricted space. Rarely is CGI scripting allowed, apart from the frequently provided form-to-email program. If you want to add some special programming you will have to pay for your Web space. Ask whether the site hosting includes CGI scripting.

The same goes for ASP/FrontPage extensions. You may not get this with a basic free account and ISPs often charge to make this available. If in doubt, ask. You will also need your own domain name, but this is often included in the price of a paid-for site hosting.

The amount of traffic your site will attract is also important and if you expect plenty of visitors you will be charged extra. Ask about restrictions on bandwidth.

Practical Internet frequently carries adverts from companies offering space and Yahoo! (www.yahoo.co.uk) has a comprehensive list.

Most of the software here is able to upload Web pages and some can upload whole site structures using built-in ftp facilities. You just enter your server and log-on details. Built in FTP facilities also enable many programs to edit files directly on the Web site. They fetch the page, let you edit it, then put it back on the server when you have finished.

If you prefer to publish your site to your hard disk, you can get a stand-alone FTP program. FTP Explorer (www.ftpx.com) is a great utility.

FRONTPAGE 2000



FrontPage is designed to fit in with the look and feel of Office 2000. It offers a wide range of features including asp extensions

MICROSOFT'S FrontPage 2000 looks and feels like Office 2000 with its irritating half hidden/expanding menus. We're just being picky though, because this is a great tool for creating Web sites. As you would expect, it can take advantage of asp extensions if your Web server supports them and this can add a lot of functionality to

your Web site without involving you in CGI scripting. Choose whether to use asp, VBScript, ActiveX, JavaScript, IE or Navigator compatibility and other advanced options.

It comes with lots of styles, themes and templates that can be applied to a single page or used to build a ready-made site. Several types of site can be created and you can apply many different styles to them. Click a button and the site is created, leaving you to simply fill in the blanks. This makes it very useful for novices.

There are plenty of features for experienced users too, and styles can be applied across a whole Web site. Rollovers are straightforward and there are a few pre-defined DHTML gizmos to brighten up your pages. It has some nice features and is probably the best tool for ASP-enabled Web servers such as IIS running on NT.

PACKAGE: Front Page 2000

URL: www.microsoft.com

EMAIL: 2way@microsoft-contact.co.uk

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: 0345 002000

PRICE: £126

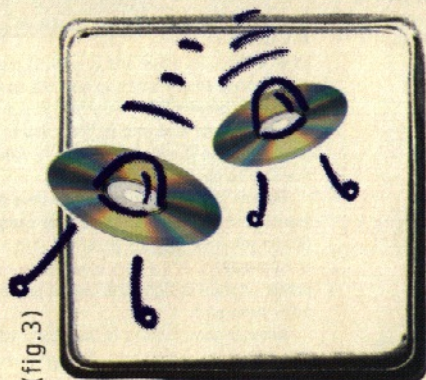
Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△



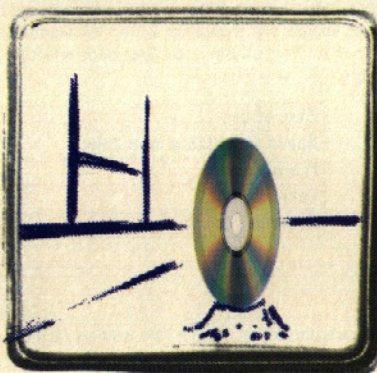
(fig.1)



(fig.2)



(fig.3)



(fig.4)

cd not included! 

you don't need a cd* to get online!

free call: **0800 053 0613**

we aim to get you online within 10 minutes

100% free internet service
all online calls charged at local call rates
www.ukonline.co.uk

*providing your system has a browser

ADOBE GOLIVE V.4.0

IT is interesting to note that Adobe's home page sports a 'Made With GoLive' banner rather than PageMill. Once you try this program it's very easy to see why – GoLive is a superb Web site design package that is packed with bang up-to-date features

On the left of the screen is a tabbed window that offers a WYSIWYG editor, frames designer, HTML editor and preview (using the Internet Explorer engine). On the right is a tabbed palette that presents all the elements you can insert into a Web page as icons. You simply drag and drop a picture icon onto the page and then use the object inspector window to set the image. The same can be done with form tags, head elements like Meta tags, frame designs and so on.

There is also a Cyber Objects tab that offers seven common JavaScript and DHTML items such as button rollovers, date and time and layered items. Lots of JavaScript routines are provided and you simply select an object like links or images and choose the action you want from a pop-up menu.

GoLive is an excellent program that offers all the latest Web page effects in an easy to use interface. It's definitely worth a try.

PACKAGE: Adobe Go Live v.4.0

URL: www.adobe.co.uk

EMAIL: www.adobe.co.uk/misc/comments.html

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT:

0181 606 4000

PRICE: £229



Adobe GoLive offers all the latest design techniques in an easy to use interface. Most operations are drag and drop

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

COFFEE CUP HTML EDITOR

COFFEE Cup is a shareware program that offers basic HTML editing facilities. On the right of the screen is the text editor and because you work in plain text, you need to be very familiar with HTML. It is tough making good Web pages by typing in code, and the only way of seeing how the page will look is to preview it in your Web browser. This is achieved by clicking a button in the toolbar, but it's still a pain.

On the left of the screen is a tabbed window. The first tab is file, and shows the contents of your hard disk drive. Images can be dragged and dropped into the HTML source and the appropriate HTML tag is inserted into the code.

The second tab is JavaScript and selecting this displays a list of over 50 JavaScript routines like scrolling messages, pop-up boxes, mouse rollovers, banners and so

on. You just click, then drag-and-drop into the HTML code. Of course, you will need to know where to insert it and how to customise it. The third tab is DHTML and offers users a dozen special effects. The last tab gives you access to five CGI scripts. Coffee Cup has great libraries, but it's hard work creating pages.

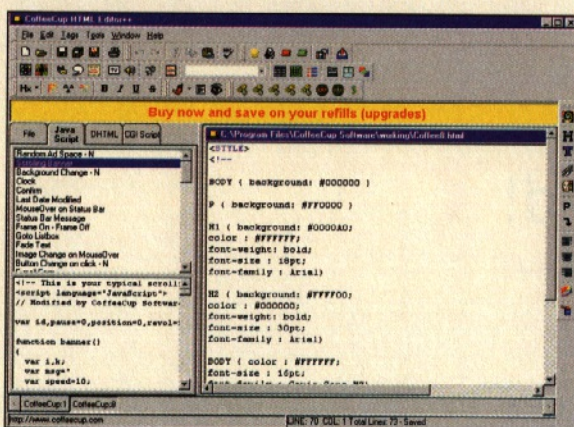
PACKAGE: Coffee Cup HTML Editor

URL: www.coffeecup.com

EMAIL: sales@coffeecup.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: n/a

PRICE: \$49



Coffee Cup is a basic HTML editor, but offers a comprehensive library of JavaScript, DHTML and CGI

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

COOL PAGE IS UNUSUAL FOR A WEB PAGE CREATOR – IT CAN'T READ HTML FILES!

Mac software

MACROMEDIA and Adobe have always produced software for both the Mac and PC. Whether it is PageMill, GoLive or Dreamweaver, you can buy a Mac version with an identical feature list to the PC programs reviewed here. NetObjects Fusion is also available for the Mac, but the current version is 3 (whereas the PC is 5). It is aimed at companies building business Web sites and you can download a trial version from the NetObjects Web site (www.netobjects.com).

PageSpinner (www.optima-system.com/pagespinner) is another popular choice of Mac using Web designers and the latest version has support for embedded objects, cascading style sheets, Java and JavaScript. It costs \$24.95 (£15.50) to register this shareware program. BBEdit is one of the most popular text editors for the Mac and the Lite free version makes a good HTML

COOL PAGE V.2.0

COOL Page is unusual for a Web page creator – it can't read HTML files! That would be a major problem if you had already started a Web site with another editor. In fact, you never see any HTML at all when using Cool Page and it uses its own file format.

The page editor takes up half the screen and using it is similar to using a DTP program. You draw a box on the page and enter some text into it. Then you drag an image onto the page and drop it where you want it. Add a coloured box or a line and so on.

Objects can be positioned anywhere on the page and when you publish to the Web (upload) or export as an HTML file, the design you have created is turned into a table (this is similar to Dreamweaver). It's a very clever feature and enables you to create unusual designs that would prove difficult to execute in other programs.

Another good feature is the Object window – a multi-tabbed box with animated images, backgrounds, buttons, bars, clipart and so on. Although you can insert HTML, the option is limited. Forget CSS, DHTML, Java and JavaScript: it's not suitable.

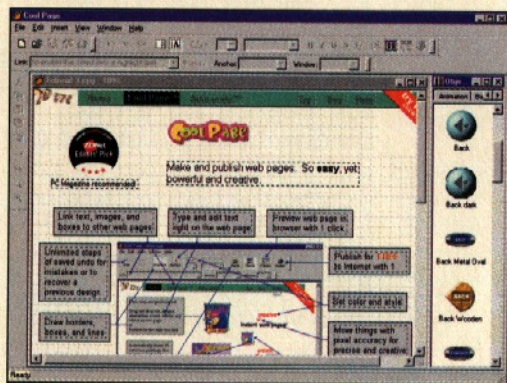
PACKAGE: Cool Page v.2.0

URL: www.3dize.com

EMAIL: support@3dize.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: N/A

PRICE: Free, £18 standard, £31 Pro



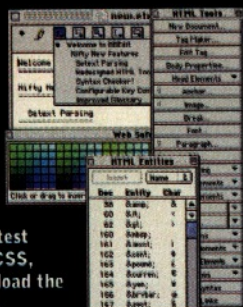
Cool Page is capable of creating unusual designs, but can't read HTML files

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

editor. Get it from Bare Bones Software (http://web.barebones.com/free/bbedit_lite.html)

Freeway offers WYSIWYG Web page editing in which objects can be dropped onto the pages and dragged into place. It supports all the latest technologies like DHTML, CSS, Java and JavaScript. Download the trial version from Softpress (www.softpress.com).

Symantec's (www.symantec.com) VisualPage is also worth a look. It supports frames, Java, Netscape plug-ins and JavaScript. A free 30-day trial version can be downloaded from its Web site.



1ST PAGE 2000



1st Page is a fantastic package considering its price – free!

has the look and feel of a professional program and it is well worth considering.

The main limitation of the program is that it works entirely in plain text HTML editing mode. The large main window displays the HTML, but a tab at the top enables you to switch to preview mode, which looks like it is using the Internet Explorer engine. The best display it can manage is a split HTML Preview window where the preview is updated on the fly as you enter HTML code.

All this means that you do need to be familiar with HTML to create a good looking Web page, but for tech-heads the program offers an excellent array of tools. Lots of DHTML routines are included, but need manually configuring. There is an easy JavaScript button rollover selector, code for Flash, Shockwave and so on. Well worth considering.

PACKAGE: 1st Page 2000

URL: www.evrsoft.com

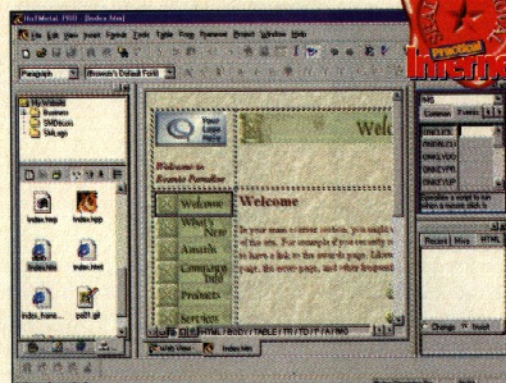
EMAIL: sales@evrsoft.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: N/A

PRICE: Free

IF you saw this HTML editor offered on the Web you might be tempted to pass up the invitation to download it. After all, if it was any good it wouldn't be given away free, right? If you do pass it by you would be missing out on a great program. 1st Page 2000 is a comprehensive HTML editor that

HotMetaL Pro is a pretty good all-round package. Not as slick as some, but lots of extras



HOTMETAL PRO 6

HOTMETAL has a unique Tags view where HTML codes are shown as graphical tags when editing a Web page. There are also three other views: HTML, WYSIWYG and browser (Internet Explorer required). You need a large desktop because there are lots of windows – Web page, Resource Manager, Attribute Inspector and HTML Element.

The Resource Manager is an excellent multi-function tool. You use it to browse your hard disk drive like Windows Explorer (it displays image files as images) or browse an ftp site. HTML pages can be dragged and dropped (from disk or ftp site) onto the editing area to be worked on. Dragging an image inserts it into the page, dropping a page inserts a link.

Clicking the Assets tab of the Resource Manager displays a huge range of ready-made items, such as backgrounds, buttons, animated gifs, Java and JavaScript, sounds, stylesheets, form fields and so on. Pop-up DHTML menus can be defined and then dropped onto pages, too. The bundle of extras is exceptionally good, such as Ulead GIF Animator, Ulead PhotoImpact, WS FTP Pro, tutorial guides and more. If you can drag and drop, you can create good Web sites with HotMetaL Pro.

PACKAGE: HotMetaL Pro 6

URL: www.hotmetalpro.com

EMAIL: sales@softquad.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: 0181 387 4110

PRICE: £116.33

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

DREAMWEAVER 2

MACROMEDIA'S Dreamweaver is available for both Macintosh and PC and v3 is just hitting shop shelves. When editing the pages of a site, the desktop can become cluttered with floating windows – WYSIWYG display, HTML code, tool palettes, layer windows, property inspector, site map etc. Showing through all this confusion is your Windows desktop wallpaper and icons. Another minor niggle is the lack of any automated site construction as in some other packages.



Dreamweaver lets your creative juices flow without getting you bogged down in HTML

Despite these two irritations Dreamweaver is a great Web site creator. Like other programs, there are WYSIWYG and HTML views. The difference here, though, is that you can display both views at the same time and watch the HTML being created in real-time as you work in WYSIWYG mode. Another

excellent feature is the ability to convert layers to frames and back to layers. You can position elements on the pages with pixel accuracy using DHTML layers and then convert your design to a table for greater compatibility with older browsers.

A transparent tracing image can be placed on the page to aid design and creating templates with locked sections is possible. Scripts and actions can easily be applied to objects. Dreamweaver is also packed with many more impressive advanced features. Shame about the price though.

PACKAGE: Dreamweaver 2

URL: www.macromedia.com

EMAIL: sales@unlimited.com

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: 0181 358 5857

PRICE: £299

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

Huh?!

HTML PACKAGE TERMINOLOGY EXPLAINED

ActiveX

A software component that can easily be embedded in a Web page to provide extra functionality and interactivity.

ASP

Active Server Page. This is a scripting language for servers that enables them to provide extra functionality. It's an alternative to CGI.

CGI

This is a scripting language for the server. Scripts are executed by a Perl interpreter and typically provide processing for forms.

DHTML

A method of changing a Web page, creating animation and adding interactivity.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol. A method of transferring files over the Internet. Typically used for uploading your Web site to the server.

Java

A language developed by Sun that is compiled into stand-alone applets that can be distributed on the Web and run by Web browsers.

JavaScript

An interpreted scripting language run by Web browsers. Nothing to do with Java and originally developed by Netscape and called LiveScript.

JScript

Microsoft's version of JavaScript.

Rollover

A button on a Web page that changes as the mouse passes over it. It can change again when clicked on.

VBScript

Microsoft's own scripting language based on Visual Basic. It is used by all Microsoft products.

WYSIWYG

What You See Is What You Get. In other words, when designing a Web page you work with text, images and other objects in an environment that looks very like the Web page as viewed in a browser.

IF 1ST PAGE 2000
WAS THE ROLLS
ROYCE OF FREE WEB
PAGE EDITORS,
CUTEHTML WOULD
BE A SKODA

HOTDOG PRO 5.5

HOTDOG has been around for many years and several different versions are available for download from the Web: Professional, Junior, PageWiz and Express. The top of the range Pro v5.5 is a reasonably comprehensive HTML editor. Like the other freeware and shareware programs, you must work with raw HTML code and this makes it difficult for novices to get to grips with.

The main screen area is taken up by the HTML text editor, which has some unexpected and welcome features like code completion, for instance. This means that as soon as you type HTML a pop-up list of options appears from which you can select. For example, type <BODY and all the optional parameters for that tag are displayed and you can pick one from the list. Another good feature is the way a brief description of a tag or parameter is displayed when the mouse hovers over it. And when the mouse hovers over an IMG tag, a thumbnail image is displayed.

A small number of JavaScript and DHTML special effects are included and a table wizard offers a few pre-defined tables – the frames wizard is also very easy to use. HotDog is a good HTML editor, but so is 1st Page2000 and that's free.

PACKAGE: HotDogPro 5.5

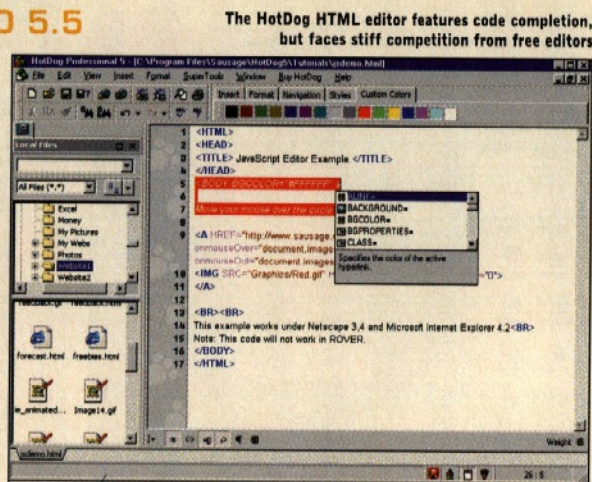
URL: www.sausage.com

EMAIL:

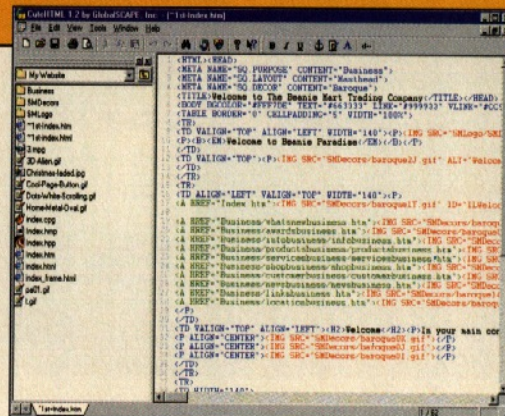
helpdesk@sausage.com.au

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: N/A

PRICE: \$129



The HotDog HTML editor features code completion, but faces stiff competition from free editors



CuteHTML offers basic HTML editing and very little else. Give the program a wide berth

CUTEHTML 1.2

IF 1st Page 2000 was the Rolls Royce of free Web page editors, CuteHTML would be a Skoda. It is simple and functional, but because both are free, why would you prefer a Skoda to a Rolls Royce? The Window is divided into a file view on the left and an HTML editing window on the right. You can drag an HTML file from the file list to the editing window to open it, or if the file is an image such as a GIF, the appropriate HTML code will be inserted into the current Web page.

Although CuteHTML lacks any extras such as DHTML, JavaScript and other widgets for brightening up a Web page, it is possible to build up your own library of items. If you discover a cool JavaScript routine, for instance, you can select it in the HTML code and add it to a library of code snippets. These snippets then appear on the menus. It would have been nice to have been provided with a bundle of ready made ones, though.

It is easier to write about what this program lacks since it doesn't have a great many features. Skip this HTML editor, there are better programs.

PACKAGE: CuteHTML 1.2

URL: www.globalscape.com

EMAIL: sales@globalscape.com

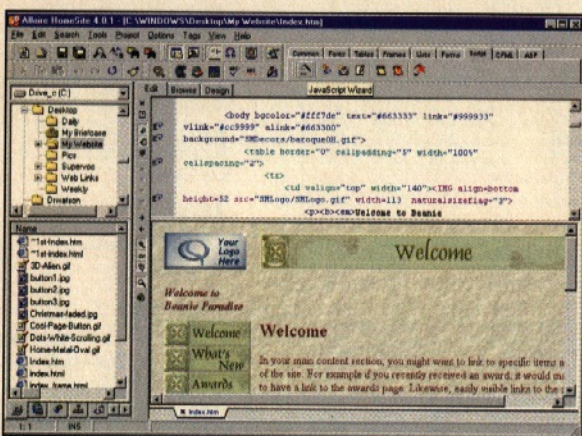
UK TELEPHONE CONTACT: n/a

PRICE: Free

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

HOMESITE 4.01

UNFORTUNATELY for Allaire, only HomeSite 4.01 was available when this review was written, but by the time you read it, v4.5 should be in the shops. It desperately needs an upgrade to put more distance between itself and the freebie 1st Page 2000, because there are too many similarities.



By the time you read this, a new version of HomeSite will be available

one of the six pre-defined items, nothing happens. In HTML mode it works perfectly. There is a DHTML wizard too, but it can create only two effects – a slide show and a site outline. Cascading stylesheets are catered for, but it is a separate stand-alone utility.

HomeSite 4.01 looks dated, but version 4.5 should add more features and greater flexibility, so you get a decent package.

PACKAGE: HomeSite 4.01

URL: www.allaire.com

EMAIL: info@unipalm.co.uk

UK TELEPHONE CONTACT:

01638 569600

PRICE: £88

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

The main part of the screen is taken up by the editing window and this has Edit, Browse and Design modes. Edit is plain text HTML editing, Browse uses the Internet Explorer engine to display the page as it would appear in a Web browser and Design is a WYSIWYG mode. When you switch to Design mode, a worrying message is displayed saying that some HTML code might be lost or at least changed.

If you use the JavaScript wizard in Design mode to insert

Ease of use:	△△△△△△△△△△
Speed at building Web Pages:	△△△△△△△△△△
Features:	△△△△△△△△△△
Value:	△△△△△△△△△△
Overall:	△△△△△△△△△△

Conclusion

THESE Web page creators fall roughly into two camps – those that offer WYSIWYG editing and those that don't. The HTML editors are free (or at least should be), with 1st Page 2000 being an outstanding example. The quality of this program is such that most other packages simply aren't worth considering.

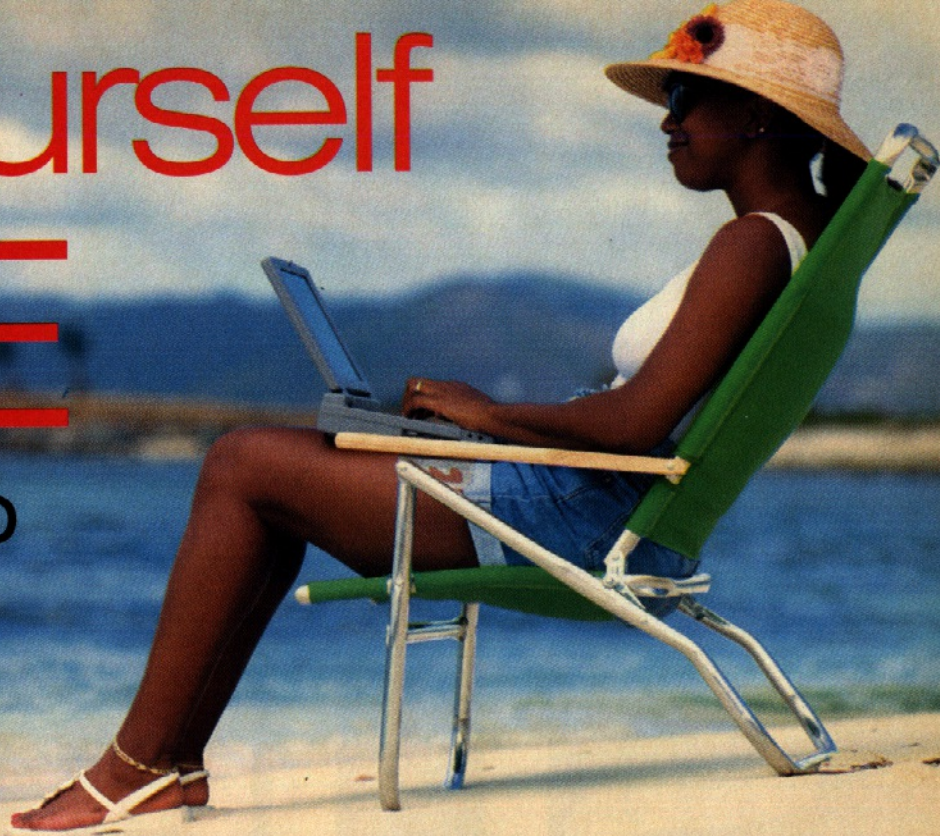
HomeSite and others must be worried because if 1st Page 2000 ever gets a WYSIWYG editing mode, it will knock them for six.

Three programs stand out from the crowd and these are FrontPage 2000, HoTMetal Pro, Adobe GoLive and Dreamweaver. All are excellent and offer the latest Java, JavaScript, cascading style sheets, dynamic HTML, WYSIWYG editing, site maintenance and much more. You will find lots of sites on the Net that have been created with these three.

The best in our opinion, though, even if it is by a whisker, is HoTMetal Pro, but it is a close race and it is just personal preference more than a lack of features in the other two.

Set yourself **FREE**

With an ISP
that lets
YOU share
in the riches of the Internet



Free ISP Shares offers you a new concept. It gives you the possibility of directly benefiting financially from your use of the Internet, and much more besides. It's a service that is fully customised to you, providing you with channels, information and entertainment that reflects your tastes. Here are a few of the things you can expect...

- **FREE** Internet access
- **FREE** technical support on a standard national rate number
- **FREE** unlimited e-mails
- **FREE** 25Mb Web space
- **FREE** voice and fax to e.mail
- **FREE** personal Web based organiser
- **FREE** e.mail to voice (have your e-mails read to you)
- **FREE** mobile phone and Web domain
- **FREE** news, directories and search engines
- **FREE** shopping arcade
- **FREE** competitions

Visit the site **NOW** - and start sharing in the riches on the Internet **TODAY** -

<http://www.freeispshares.co.uk>

F.I.S.

F.I.S. Site powered by



contactbox
www.contactbox.co.uk

For further information and your **FREE CD** call **FREE ISP SHARES** on **0870-70-111-70**

Claim one of our seven great
FREE GOODIES and **SAVE 25%**
off the cost of the cover
price of the magazine!



SUBSC

GET ONE OF THESE FREE!

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS A £1.00 POST AND PACKING CHARGE FOR THE FREE GIFT YOU CHOOSE

Xoom Web Page Power Pack

YOU'LL find virtually everything you need to create high impact Web pages quickly and easily with this superb CD. It's a suite of powerful Web tools that let you create and maintain your Web pages like the pro's! It includes Web Snake, a set of Internet tools you can use to download a Website for off-line browsing, Gif Animator, a GIF compression tool, Web Site Starter Kit, a collection of more than 50 complete Web sites for you to use, and Byte Catcher, a download/ upload program.



Web Page Multimedia Pack

THIS CD gives you all the capabilities you need to create the marvellous multimedia content you've always wanted. The easy to use interface lets you add photos, videos and audio .wav files on to any Web site with the minimum of hassle. The photo editing tool lets you crop, size, add edge effects and even change resolution and resample imagery. For video, you get 103 dazzling transition effects, 51 video filters, APS 16 bit plug in support, plus a Multimedia converter and screen capture program.



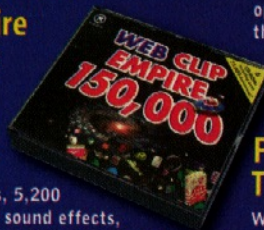
Web Site Templates

Here's 250 Web templates to jump start your site. Each template includes a home page, 19 commonly used sub pages, a configurable navigation bar, and email links – all in a variety of themes and styles. That's 1500 themed navigation elements, headers, and backgrounds and over 4,500 Web pages! There are also over 10,000 images to enhance your site including 7,000 animated GIFs, 1,000 photos, and 3,000 Web objects. Create your site in minutes with this superb package.



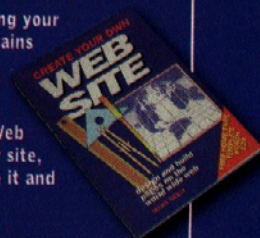
Web Clip Empire

HERE'S 150,000 fast loading animations, sounds, designs, and more on six CDs! Along with animated GIFs, you get JPEGs, still GIFs, 5,200 music tracks and sound effects, plus 13,800 Java buttons, photos and videos. There's something for everyone, every style and every taste. It also comes with the powerful CompuPic browser. As a further bonus, all the images are royalty free so you can use them for whatever reason on pages throughout your Web site.



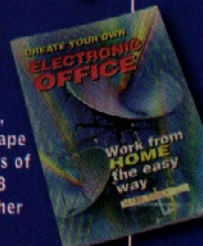
Create Your Own Web Site

The complete guide to building your site. This 114 page book explains what free tools are available, how to create your own dazzling graphics, where to get free Web space to house your site, and how to promote it and attract other Net users to visit it.



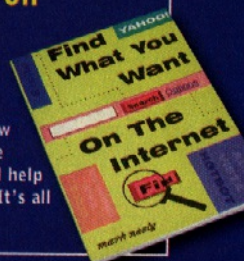
Create Your Own Electronic Office

Home business, cottage industry, small office. Whatever term you use, operating from home means you escape the stresses, pressures and overheads of a busy city or town office. This 98 page book helps you decide whether home working is for you.



Find What You Want On The Internet

Which techniques and search engines work the best? What is the real difference between search sites and directories? How do you choose which to use? Are there any special tricks that will help you find what you want faster? It's all in this 114 page book.





RIIBE

Save 25% and get one of these
CDs and books **FREE!**

GET A LOGITECH INTERNET KEYBOARD FOR JUST £20!

THE brand new Logitech Internet keyboard is one of the first keyboards to feature dedicated Internet function keys. And new subscribers to *Practical Internet* who are resident in the UK can get one for just £20 – that's a third off the recommended retail price. There are dedicated buttons for one-touch access to 17 Web browser commands plus customisable keys for instant access to favourite sites and applications. Usually costing £30, it's available to new subscribers of *Practical Internet* for just £20 including VAT and post and packing (UK residents only).



Call our credit card hotline
on **01202 200200**

PRACTICAL INTERNET

PRACTICAL INTERNET SUBSCRIPTIONS FORM

PLEASE TICK WHICH SUBSCRIPTION YOU REQUIRE:

- ☐ UK £36
☐ UK with Logitech Internet keyboard £56
☐ Europe £40
☐ Rest of World £46

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE FREE GIFTS

(ADD £1.00 FOR POST AND PACKING)

- ☐ Xoom Web Page Power Pack ☐ Web Site Templates
☐ Web Page Multimedia Pack ☐ Web Clip Empire
☐ Book: Create Your Own Web Site
☐ Book: Create Your Own Electronic Office
☐ Book: Find What You Want On The Internet

ENTER THE ISSUE NUMBER FROM WHEN
YOU WANT YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO START: _____

PERSONAL DETAILS:

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

Telephone No:

Email:

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

Please indicate your choice of method

☐ CHEQUE Please make payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd.

☐ CREDIT CARD



☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch

Card number:

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ (Switch only)

Expiry date: □□/□□

Issue No. □□ (Switch only)

Signature:

YOUR DETAILS:

1. Age:

- ☐ 10-16 ☐ 31-45
☐ 17-20 ☐ 46-60
☐ 21-30 ☐ 60+

2. Sex:

.....

3. Occupation:

.....

4. How many people read your copy of the magazine?

- ☐ 1 ☐ 4
☐ 2 ☐ 5
☐ 3 ☐ More

5. Please indicate your other interests:

- ☐ Sports
☐ Cinema/Theatre
☐ Music, CDs/Concerts
☐ Travel/Holidays
☐ Computer games/Leisure
☐ Education/Reading
☐ Science Fiction
☐ The Internet

6. What other magazines do you read?

Please state:

.....

.....

Please return this coupon or a photocopy of it (together with your cheque/PO if applicable, made payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd) in an envelope to: Practical Internet Subs, Paragon Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST (BH 1255), Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 2TA. It won't cost you a penny in stamps if posted in the UK. Alternatively, call our credit card hotline on 01202 200200, fax your details on 01202 200217 or email us at subs@paragon.co.uk

From time to time, Paragon sends out news about exciting new products and opportunities that are of interest to readers. If you do not wish to receive such information, please tick this box. ☐

IT'S SHOW TIME!

THE PRACTICAL INTERNET AWARDS 2000

The lights are dimming, the voices hushing and the drum roll beating. Take your seats, ladies and gentlemen, for the Practical Internet Awards

Forget old hat ceremonies like the Oscars, Grammys and Emmies. Why should groups of old cronies pretending to be 'experts' decide who wins? It's really you who should have the final say! With this in mind, we invited you – our readers – to decide which sites should scoop the first ever Practical Internet Awards. We were confident you'd come up with a great line-up of quality sites and we haven't been disappointed.

Our online voting form was inundated with your entries and over the next few pages we'll reveal the sites you've chosen to win the sought-after first batch of PI Awards. They reveal just what kinds of sites you're storing as bookmarks, as well as the Net services you're using the most.

Among a wide range of subjects covered are music, news, sport, personal finance and over-18s sites, plus your favourite free and pay ISPs. We also name the UK's favourite overall site. So on with the show. The curtain's up and the spotlight beaming down on the stage...

Are you a lucky draw winner?

EVERY reader who cast their vote in the Practical Internet Awards was entered into a draw to win a great lineup of fantastic prizes.

Top prize, a superb £1,500 Internet-ready PC from free ISP Logitext (www.logitext.co.uk) with a 450MHz processor, 64Mb of RAM and an 8.4Gb HD, goes to Michael Morris of Nottingham.

We also had five £190 domain hosting packages from Netalia (www.netalia.com) up for grabs. They include 40Mb of Web space, your choice of .co.uk or .org.uk domain name, full FTP access, unlimited email and local call rate dial-up access. The lucky winners are Ausaf Khan (Birmingham), Joanna Colville (Exeter), Phil Kirk (Littlehampton), Miloslav Madacky (London W1) and D Brown (Scunthorpe).

Five more readers will each receive a Buddy B-200 – a remarkable device that allows up to three people to access the Web from one PC. Provided by Johnsons Photopia (www.johnsons-photopia.co.uk), the winners are Matthew Williams (Glasgow), Claire Murphy (Yeovil), Chris Beard (Devon), Francis Eadie (North Lanarkshire), Sean Duffy (Cumbria).

Also up for grabs were 20 dial-up only Net access accounts from Netalia. Winners will be notified by post.

Practical Internet
Awards 2000

FAVOURITE ENTERTAINMENT SITE

MTV UK



Mention the words 'music' and 'television' and it's likely that MTV will spring to mind. Now the legendary channel is making waves on the Web too with its groovy UK site. Offering the latest chart lineups, industry gossip and behind-the-scenes photos plus details on the channel's shows, the site is snappily designed and sharply written. There's also a handy searchable database to help you track down long forgotten singers, albums and groups. Coming a very close second is MP3.com which, as you should know by now, offers thousands of downloadable CD-quality music files.

HOW YOU VOTED

	www.mtv.co.uk 32%
	www.mp3.com 31%
	www.entertainmentextra.co.uk 13%
	www.sceneone.co.uk 9%
	www.zy.com 1%

FAVOURITE NEWS SITE

CNN



The clear winner here is CNN, the rolling news TV channel. Split up into well defined categories including politics, sports, technology, health, entertainment, travel and weather, you're guaranteed to find something of interest. The huge index of informative stories and features is well catalogued and can be trawled through in a matter of seconds using the fast Search facility. CNN.com doesn't just offer pages of text – you can also access video segments, live audio streaming and interactive maps. It's a fantastic resource. And since it's written with a global audience in mind, it's not too Americanised.

HOW YOU VOTED

	www.cnn.co.uk 40%
	http://news.bbc.co.uk 34%
	www.skynews.co.uk 9%
	www.drudgereport.com 6%
	www.thesun.co.uk 1%

FAVOURITE SPORTS SITE
BBC SPORT & SPORTING LIFE

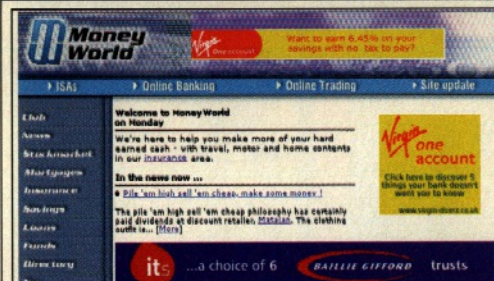
HOW YOU VOTED

	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/1/english/sport/default.htm 25%
	www.sporting-life.com 25%
	www.skysports.co.uk 20%
	www.football365.co.uk 12%
	http://espn.com 12%

A fiercely-fought two horse race ensued here as the Beeb and Sporting Life (the still-active Web site of the defunct newspaper) battled it out to the finishing line. In the end, it was a dead heat. Offering a huge range of top quality content to interest every sports lover – from horse racing punters to footie fans and university rowers – these sites have it all. Alongside mainstream news about big name stars and Premiership sides, is a database of stories and pictures covering just about every sport conceivable. Both are very worthy winners – although we'd put the Sporting Life slightly ahead on its design.

FAVOURITE PERSONAL FINANCE SITE

MONEYWORLD



HOW YOU VOTED

	www.moneyworld.co.uk 32%
	www.fool.co.uk 26%
	www.times-money.co.uk 16%
	www.thisismoney.co.uk 10%
	www.egg.com 1%

Need a cheap loan? Want to earn a mint from the stockmarket? Put together your own personal pension? Whether you're a wealthy banker, a carpetbagger or a penniless journalist (and there's lots of us around), you'll find MoneyWorld rich in valuable advice. Among the topics covered are unit trusts, foreign currency, funds, mortgages, insurance, loans and stocks. Using the free MoneyWorld Portfolio facility, you can also track your finances by receiving regularly updated figures throughout the day. The financial award was a close run thing with Motley Fool coming in second.

FAVOURITE MUSIC SITE

MTV

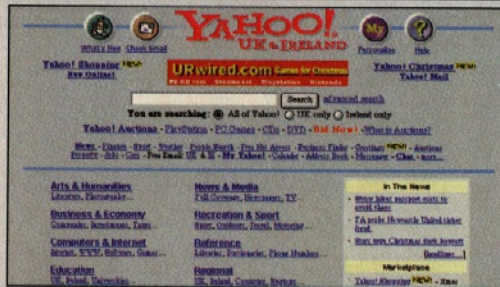


HOW YOU VOTED

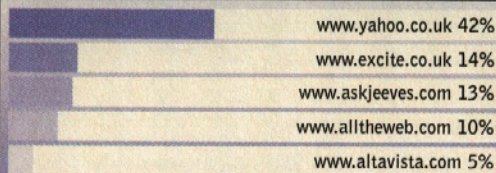
	www.mtv.co.uk 38%
	www.mp3.com 30%
	www.dotmusic.com 12%
	www.nme.com 10%
	www.ubl.com 2%

Rock around the Web with MTV's hip 'n' happening site. The channel's addictive mix of music, comedy and sexy presenters makes it a winning formula for a second time. The news section's entertaining celebrity trivia is a must-read; with a recent story telling how All Saint Nicole Appleton celebrated her 25th birthday by being entertained by two male strippers! Ooo er. If you're still yearning for entertainment there are three Flash-animated interactive music games. With such strong competition, it's small wonder that MP3.com is once again pushed into second spot here.

FAVOURITE SEARCH ENGINE YAHOO! UK



HOW YOU VOTED



This winner needs no introduction and emerged as the clear victor in this category. Already established as a household name, Yahoo! is the search engine that takes the hassle out of searching the Net. It's easy to use interface and well categorised pages make finding what you want a painless process.

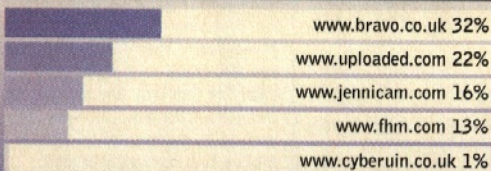
Well designed and quick to load, Yahoo! also provides auctions, shops, free Web-based email and a huge amount of news covering entertainment, sports, technology and weather. It's also worth noting that we received more votes from you for Yahoo! than any other Web site or ISP.

FAVOURITE OVER-EIGHTEEN SITE

BRAVO



HOW YOU VOTED



No site gets more hormone-charged than this. Witty, wicked, and women-filled, Bravo's slogan is 'We've got the balls - have you?' Its best features (nudge, nudge) include video highlights from Italian Stripping Housewives (presented by a Welshman), The Dolls House (where three babes show off their assets in front of five Web cams) and The Torture Chamber (where you wreck your vengeance on slimy celebs). Oh, and take note of the site's warning: 'This is an adult site. If you don't find any offensive, defamatory or vaguely sexual material please let us know and we'll put some up immediately.'

FAVOURITE SHOPPING SITE AMAZON UK



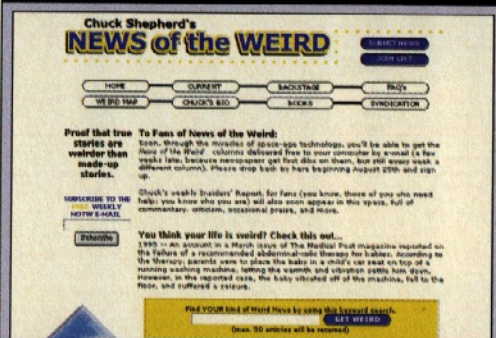
HOW YOU VOTED



Whether you're into Roald Dahl or George Michael, you're certain to find something to empty your pockets on here. Amazon's Godzilla-sized site boasts a huge choice of books, music, films, PC software and auction items - all at cut-down prices and with turbo-charged delivery times.

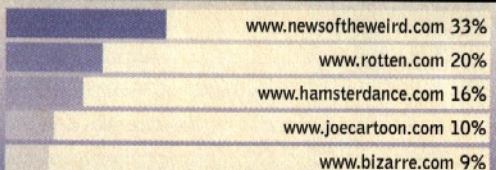
What's more, Amazon's rapid search facility makes tracking down your fave reads and tunes a painless process. Remember, too, that by joining the site's Association Programme, you can also earn yourself some dosh by selling Amazon's products. A worthy winner.

WEIRDEST WEB SITE NEWS OF THE WEIRD



The 'www' bit in Internet addresses could well stand for 'Weird Wide Web' if the number of sites you've nominated here is anything to go by. News Of The Weird, though, gets the glory. Now ten years old, it offers a peculiar mix of bizarre-but-true stories from around the globe. Take, for example, the story about the woman who claims talking to dogs can cure their master-animal relationship problems, or the story about the American who climbed a 400ft radio mast and vowed not to come down until he was elected Vice President! Well weird - and a great read.

HOW YOU VOTED



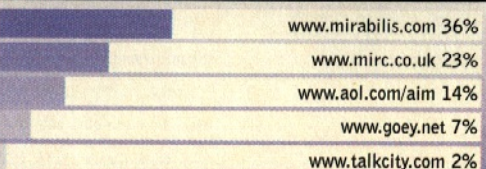
FAVOURITE ONLINE CHAT SITE MIRABILIS



The home of ICQ gets the thumbs-up in this category. Offering all the free software you'll need to chat online using ICQ, plus help on how to set it up and get it all running, Mirabilis is a great resource. You're also able to track down people with the same hobbies and interests as yourself - helping you to make new pals and, perhaps, even partners quicker and easier.

A complete listing of all the topics you can chat about is provided in a well categorised format. Runners up here are IRC and AOL's Instant Messenger.

HOW YOU VOTED



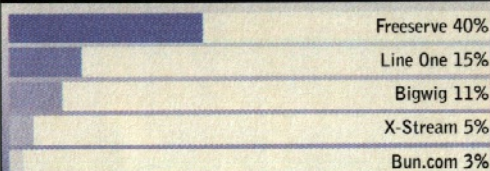
FAVOURITE FREE ISP FREESERVE



pi Freeserve, the UK's first ISP to offer free Net access, scoops this coveted award by quite some margin. Since launching just over a year ago, it has attracted 1.48million active subscribers – the most of any ISP. The service offers local call rate Net access, an unlimited number of email addresses and 15Mb of free Web space.

Among the other ISPs, Line One is the runner-up with Bigwig, X-Stream and Bun.com coming in close behind. Occupying the territory just outside the top five is Freenetname and Screaming.Net.

HOW YOU VOTED



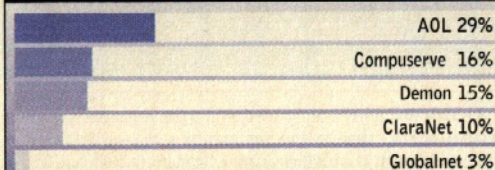
FAVOURITE PAY ISP AOL



pi With the recent launch of its 'Off Peak All The Time' tariff, AOL is offering around-the-clock Net access for just a penny a minute and a monthly charge of £9.99 – making it better value than ever. AOL has long been a favourite with Net users for its ease of use and wide-ranging content, which includes constantly updated news, sports and weather reports plus shopping, games and chat rooms.

The ISP also provides free technical help via an 0800 number and every member gets five email addresses plus a total of 10Mb of free Web space.

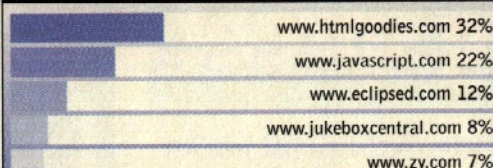
HOW YOU VOTED



FAVOURITE WEB BUILDING RESOURCES HTML GOODIES



HOW YOU VOTED



pi Fazed by frames? Stuck with source code? Fret no more. If you're building a Web site and want some plain-talking advice without the jargon, this site is ideal.

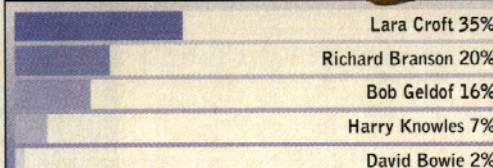
HTML Goodies offers helpful hints on every aspect of creating your own Web pages, from setting up forms and adding tables to using animation and snappy graphics. It's well presented, well written and simple to follow. The advice offered is simple, down-to-earth and the sections split up into well defined categories.

In short, it's a must read for every budding home page builder and professional site maker.

FAVOURITE INTERNET PERSONALITY LARA CROFT



HOW YOU VOTED



pi Cyber babe and Net gaming heroine Lara Croft battles off the contenders to scoop this keenly fought award. As the buxom star of the Tomb Raider series of online games, she's the idol of countless teenagers (and many grown-ups too!). She's also appeared in adverts for big brand products like Lucozade.

The runners-up here are Richard Branson (of Virgin Net fame), Bob Geldof (of Deckchair.com), Harry Knowles (of the infamous film site Ain't It Cool), and pop star David Bowie (of Bowie Net). Our Lara, though, is a deserving winner.

FAVOURITE UK SITE BBC COMEDY ZONE



HOW YOU VOTED



pi You won't find a better British site than this one from the Beeb. Home to well-loved TV stars like Alan Partridge, Blackadder and The Two Ronnies, it's well designed and lets you interact with all your fave TV shows. This includes watching scenes from classic Fawlty Towers episodes, playing the Dad's Army screensaver game and even giving Delboy's Dodgy Doubles Game a go. A must visit is the hilarious weekly soap The Dallas Ducks, described as 'a tale of greed and lust among the oil rich ducks of Texas.' The runner-up in this category is The Guardian's excellent News Unlimited.



WIN a virtual shopping spree!

Five online shopping sprees worth £250 are on offer from CentreSHOP

Fed up with advert-heavy online shopping malls where choice is limited, to brands you've never heard of? Looking for the ultimate one-stop UK Internet shopping centre where you can build up loyalty points as you shop? If so, check out CentreSHOP (www.centreshop.com), the new interactive shopping experience.

With more than 1,000 shopping sites to choose from, selling everything from leading brands to products and services which simply cannot be found on the high street, CentreSHOP is the ultimate shopping experience. So whether it's a football kit you're after, toys, computer products, electrical goods or simply a CD or book, CentreSHOP is your one-stop shop.



Online browsing

With an easy-to-use floor plan, directory and bookmark facilities, shoppers are invited to browse around the interactive 3D shopping mall which comes complete with escalators, background music, fountains and plants! New shops are being added daily.

To celebrate the launch of the site, NetBanx, its creator, is offering five lucky Practical Internet readers a fantastic £50 virtual shopping spree within the mall. The winning readers may select goodies – ranging from high street brands to more unusual products – from any of the mall's 1,000 online stores, and NetBanx will foot the bill!

To enter, answer the question below and send your answer to pi@paragon.co.uk with 'Shopping' as the subject heading. Closing date for entries is 10 February, 2000. Good luck!

Q. APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY ONLINE STORES ARE OFFERED AT CENTRESHOP

1. 10 2. 100 3. 1,000



WIN £500 OF NET SOFTWARE

A dozen copies of MP3 Wizard and Web Magnet are up for grabs in this great contest



Downloading music is now the second most popular past time on the Net. And you can take full advantage of the number of tracks being released in MP3 format with MP3 Wizard, a program that lets you download files directly on to CD. It's the all-in-one solution for direct-to-disc writing of MP3 audio files and helps you organise all your files, CD collections and MP3 URLs. The program decodes your MP3 files into WAV files, normalises the volume, creates a CD image and begins writing your CD automatically. We have a dozen copies of MP3 Wizard, worth £19.99 each, to give away.

Internet magnetism

There are also 12 copies of Web Magnet up for grabs. For searching and downloading images, videos and sound files from the Net, Web Magnet saves time and money by automatically looking through search engines, Web sites and newsgroups – taking the task away from you.

Single Web pages can be searched including sub directories and search results displayed as thumbnails or galleries. Web Magnet usually sells for £19.99 but you can get it completely free if you're one of the lucky winners of this competition. For more details about either product see Databecker's Web site at www.databecker.co.uk.

To enter, answer the simple question below (and boy is this an easy one?) then send your answer to pi@paragon.co.uk with 'Databecker' as the subject heading. Closing date for entries is 10 February, 2000.

Q. WHICH OF THESE IS A MAGICIAN OR SORCERER?

1. LIZARD 2. WIZARD 3. BUZZARD

The closing date for both competitions is 10 February 2000. Employees of Paragon Publishing, Databecker, NetBanx and anyone associated with these organisations may not enter. Multiple entries are not accepted. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. From time to time you may be sent news about exciting new products and opportunities that are of interest to Practical Internet readers. If you do not wish to receive such information, please indicate this on your entry. No cash alternative is available. Send postal entries to Practical Internet, Paragon Publishing Ltd, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS.

www.vitaminic.co.uk



choose



download

free!

**downloadable music
in MP3 format**

www.vitaminic.co.uk offers thousands of free tracks, classified in over 150 genres of downloadable music in digital mp3 format, from dance and hip-hop to jazz and world music.

Whatever your taste, you can now interact with your favourite artists, from all over the world, via our newsletters, email and charts. This is the future of the music. So what are you waiting for?



www.vitaminic.co.uk
the music evolution

ARE YOU READY TO SELL ONLINE?

WEBFUSION BUSINESS

E-Commerce

All features of the Webfusion Business Pro account, plus online retailing capability, Miva Merchant license, & all these benefits:

- Unlimited products
- Unlimited categories
- Existing site integration
- Customisable look & feel
- Up and running in an hour
- Fully installed & ready to run
- Easy to Use, with Online Help
- Integrated with secure server
- Inexpensive business solution
- Admin-friendly web interface
- Complete shopping cart solution



**START
SELLING
TODAY!**

PAY MONTHLY OR YEARLY
£69.99 £499
FREE SETUP SAVE £340!

WEBFUSION BUSINESS

Pro Account

100MB fast UK web space,
www.yourname.co.uk,
same day setup, 30
day back guarantee,
all these features:

All domain name
registration fees for
two years, POP3 email
& unlim email addresses,
announcement lists, auto
responders, unlimited updates, secure
server access, support for PHP3, Miva,
MySQL and RealAudio as standard,
Perl 5, SSI, own CGI-bin plus pre-
installed scripts, MS Frontpage extens,
graphical stats, responsive technical
support, Virtual Control Panel™

**£199 per
year**
INCL NOMINET FEES!
ONE STEP - ONE INVOICE

ULTIMATE EASE OF USE - THE VIRTUAL CONTROL PANEL™

All Webfusion hosting packages come with the Virtual Control Panel pre-installed, for complete control of your account via an easy-to-use web interface. Configure and read your email, setup autoresponders, mailing lists and 15 pre-installed CGI scripts, upload and manage files, set passwords... No need to telnet to the server or remember complex commands - just point and click! Webfusion - Seriously Easy Hosting

WebFusion™

Seriously Easy Web Hosting™

www.webfusion.co.uk
info@webfusion.co.uk

**Call Now: 0115
91700000**

Prices exclude VAT at 17.5%

**WE WELCOME MAJOR CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS
NO SURCHARGES**

BUILDING SITE: PAGE 58
 INTERACT: PAGE 60
 DESIGN DOCTOR: PAGE 61
 DYNAMITE DOZEN: PAGE 62


HOME IMPROVEMENT

Comment

 TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
 LEARN FROM OTHERS


THIS issue's Home Improvement sees two sites being congratulated for excellent redesigns. The

first is BBC News, which has managed to retain its super-fast access times as well as making the site look better than before. Second comes this issue's site of the month, Quorndon Online, which is also a news-based site, but has the somewhat smaller brief of providing an online account of life in one particular English village.

Both sites are great in their own way, especially in terms of their realistic approach to redesigns. Some people tend to shy away from redesigning their site, because they believe it will mean they have to go back and change every page. As both of these sites testify, this just isn't the case.

If you're considering a redesign, then concentrate on making it look as good as possible, with new content taking precedence over redesigning old material. Even the multi-million budgets of BBC News haven't proved enough to redesign all of the pages. Whether or not you've just redesigned your site, don't forget to enter it for the site of the month competition by emailing me at the following address: james@paragon.co.uk.

Whether you're searching for decent software, or plagued by home page hassles, **JAMES SEABRIGHT** can help

SPOTLIGHT: BBC NEWS REDESIGN

BBC News: a lesson in redesign

POORLY designed Web sites have been taken to task often enough in Home Improvement Spotlights. This issue, however, we're taking a look at the more positive side of online design by congratulating BBC News for a great makeover of its site. Over two years of being online, the site has built up an impressive 400,000 pages of content. This is an amazing feat, and it has been achieved without any redesign to the original interface.

Power to the people

The site grew to be one of the most popular Web services outside of America, and it was felt that a change of design was required if it was to retain its ease of access and remain fresh to its visitors. Rather than following the easy route of redesigning the site by following the Webmasters' whims, a full-scale user-testing program was launched in association with Serco Usability Services. The main outcome of the study was, unsurprisingly, that users consider quick access to be the main priority for the site, and this is



something that has been retained in the makeover.

Painting by stylesheets

One particular improvement is that colour is used to greater effect. Previously, the site has been somewhat monochrome, making it difficult to pick out links from

sections of text. This has been fixed, using a consistent palette of colours to guide users around the site without any confusion. The BBC site makes use of stylesheet technology, something we've been covering in some depth in recent Building Site and Masterclass sections.

Rapid reading

Another big change has been in content presentation, to account for Web users tending to just scan for information. Keywords and pictures are being used more as signposts than decorative features. It's always important to consider site navigation very carefully, because if people can't find what they want on your site, they will give up and go elsewhere. One tactic for ensuring fast access to content is to provide a search box. Whilst the BBC site originally demoted this to the bottom of each page, it has now been moved up to the very top.

Lessons for next time

There have been a few embarrassing teething problems, such as the headline scroller on the front page failing to work in some browsers. But these details are being cleaned up, with the end result being a great-looking site that is well worth a look. Visit the site at news.bbc.co.uk.

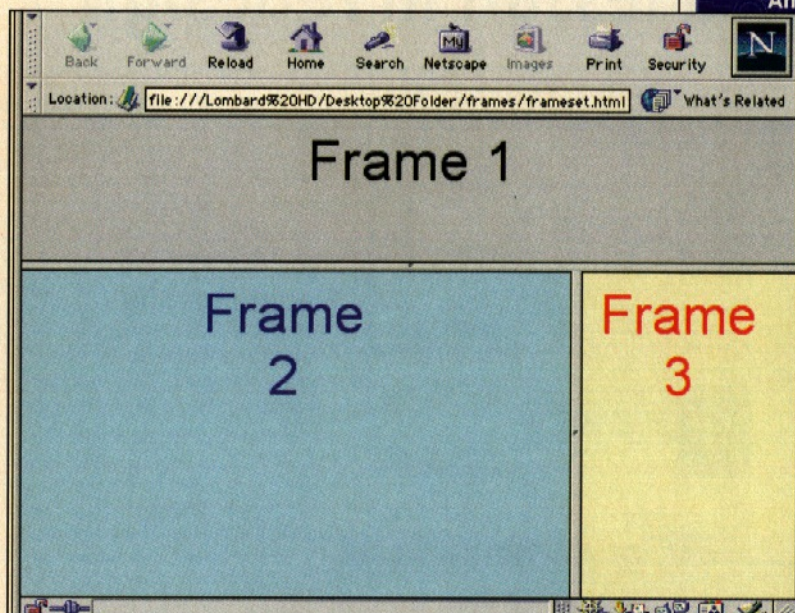
BUILDING SITE

Frames make it easy to divide up the Web browser window into different panels. Find out how to avoid the problems that typically arise when creating and using them

TOPTIP

Also worth including in your frameset are <meta> tags for providing keywords and descriptions of your Web site. Take a look at www.beseen.com and use the generator.

FRAMES basically divide your Web page into two or more panels, each of which contains an independent HTML file. There is an additional HTML document, which is called the frameset file. This contains no 'visible' content, but just the details of how many panels to split the page into, and what HTML files should be used for each panel. For example, look at the screenshot below and compare it with the HTML code that was used to generate the frameset. Note that all of the visible content of the frames comes from the HTML files specified in the <frame> tags.



```
<html>
<title>Welcome to Frameset
City</title>
<frameset rows="100, *"
<frame src="frame1.html"
scrolling="NO"
name="frame1">
<frameset cols="*, 150">
<frame src="frame2.html"
name="frame2">
<frame src="frame3.html"
name="frame3">
</frameset>
</frameset>
</html>
```

1 Rows and columns

It's a little tricky to become familiar with the ins and outs of rows and columns. Many different permutations are possible, and as with the example here, it is possible to make columns within rows (and vice versa).

Don't get too carried away with this so-called 'frame nesting', or you'll just create an untidy mess. But if you've got a good reason to have a few frames on the page, follow the template set out above – start off with a <frameset> tag specifying 'rows' or 'cols' and the dimensions.

There should be as many <frame> tags in the <frameset> structure as there are dimensions in the <frameset> specification. In the examples



here, both <framesets> have two dimensions, and therefore two <frame> tags each. It gets a little confusing, because the second <frame> tag of the first <frameset> is in fact the second <frameset>! This is what causes the frames to 'nest' together.

2 Border guard

The borders that automatically appear on frames aren't always desirable. In fact, the best use of frames tends to be when the visitor to the site isn't really aware of the frames being there at all – such as with the SpectraVideo site at www.spectravideo.com. This uses two frames, with the navigation bar simply appearing to 'float' permanently at the top of the browser window. It is quite complicated to reliably achieve the borderless effect, because both Netscape and Microsoft browsers require different tags to achieve the same effect. Even with the method suggested here, you can't fully guarantee that everyone will view your page without borders or gaps between the frames. Simply add the following HTML code to each <frameset> tag on your page, replacing 'white' with the actual background colour of the page in question: `frameborder="0" bordercolor="white" border="0" framespacing="0"`

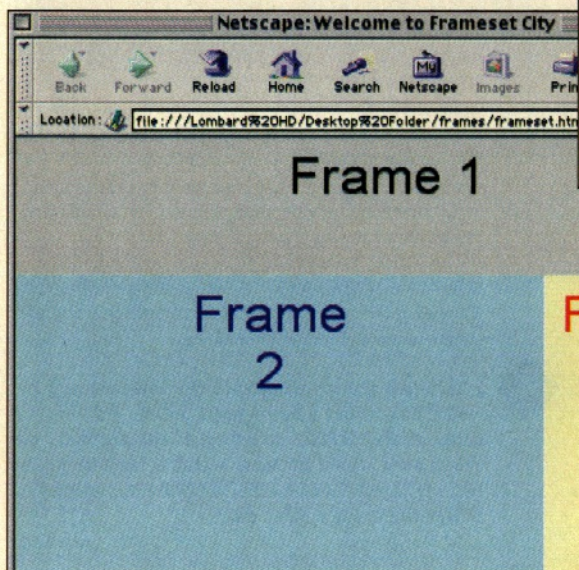
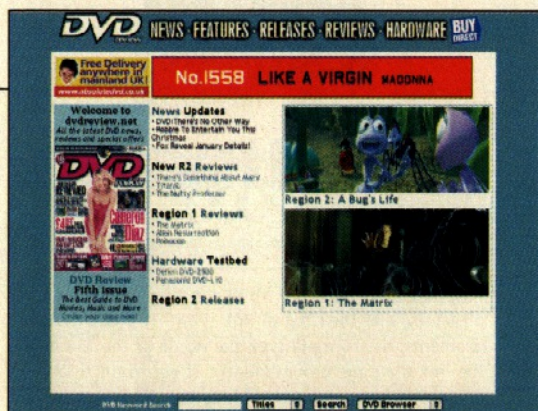
3 Robot eyes

Although frames are a quick and easy way of creating great visual effects, they can play real havoc with other important things like the popularity of your site. Quite apart from the fact that some people have an irrational fear of any Web page involving frames, there's also the problem that they tend to confuse search engines.

SITE OF THE MONTH

SUBMIT YOUR CREATION, AND YOU COULD WIN SITE OF THE MONTH

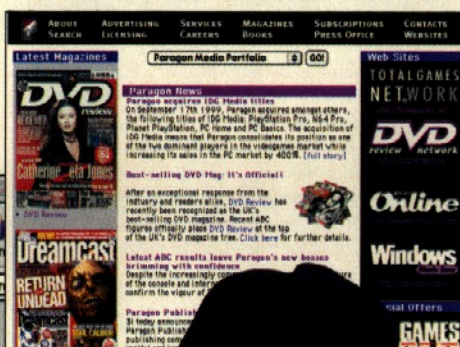
There are dozens of great looking sites on the Net which use frames. Among them are Computer Video (www.computervideo.net), DVD Review (www.dvdreview.net) and Paragon Online (www.paragon.co.uk)



This is a rather crucial issue, because the listing of your site on a search engine or Net directory is essential if you want people to find it easily. It's a well-known fact that over three quarters of Web navigation starts at a search engine, so this is a really important source of visitors.

The problem lies in the fact that when a search engine 'looks' at your site, it might not be able to understand your frameset. It's basically trying to collect keywords and links together – but there are neither of these on offer in the bare bones frameset. What you need to do is to create a <noframes> section, which is HTML code that is entered after all the <frameset> tags are out of the way. This will help visitors with old non-frames browsers, as well as making your site accessible to search engines: <noframes> This page is designed using frames, but you can access the three sections of Frameset City by using these links:

```
<a href="frame1.html">Frame 1</a>, <a href="frame2.html">Frame 2</a>, and <a href="frame3.html">Frame 3</a>.</noframes>
```



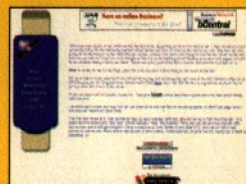
First Place



Quorndon Magazine is the first reader's site to win first prize more than once. This time around, they deserve the accolade for their hard work in maintaining and now redesigning a genuinely useful online resource. The makeover has disposed of the garish orange that once adorned the site background, replacing it with a more conservative colour scheme that is closely tied to much improved navigation. Overall, it makes the site much more appealing and should attract many more visitors.

NAME: Simon Roulstone et al
ADDRESS: www.quorndon-mag.org.uk
RATING: ★★★★★

Second place



NAME: David Webb
ADDRESS: www.lexx.co.uk
UPPERS: Great imagemap, varied and interesting content
DOWNERS: Colour scheme not great, far too many adverts
RATING: ★★★

Third place



NAME: Janet, David and Emma
ADDRESS: www.motortraders.com
UPPERS: Useful and innovative idea, good site structure
DOWNERS: Quite light on content, design a little untidy
RATING: ★★



INTERACT

When Web design woes set in, Home Improvement is here to lend a hand

QUESTION TIME

Q

I purchased *Practical Internet* issue 35, and got an error when I typed in a Web address from the Home Improvement pages (page 59). Please could you look at the addresses www.jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/validator-uri.html and www.validator.w3.org for me?

Dave Prescott

A

Contrary to popular belief, not every Web address starts with 'www'. The address printed in issue 35 is correct, you don't have to add 'www' to the start in order to access the W3 Consortium's CSS and HTML validation services. For those readers who weren't tuned in to issue 35, these Web sites will look at your HTML and style sheet files to check them for code errors. They'll even produce corrected versions for double-quick corrections!

A

I have been reading your mag for only a short time but it has really inspired me, especially the Home Improvement segment. I think I have grasped most things well and my site is starting to look good. I have been using FrontPage Express but when I try to link to another page, this error appears: "Linking from a webpage to a local file. This may not be available to users of your web. Would you like to do this anyway?" I would like to know if it will all work when I upload it to my new site or do I have to link them in a different way. I will be sending the site in for your approval when its finished!

Richard Hughes

Q

It sounds like you are trying to create a link to files from different parts of your computer's hard disk. This will confuse FrontPage Express, and you should

Microsoft is the creator of FrontPage Express, and you can find out more about the program from the Web site

instead collect together all of the files into one directory, and then try to link them. If you still have problems, then simply type the name of the file into the link dialogue box manually. If you want to try doing this using manual HTML, then linking to a page called 'photos.htm' when an image is clicked on, would require this code:

```
<A HREF="photos.htm"><IMG SRC="piccy.jpg" WIDTH="100" HEIGHT="175" BORDER="0"></A>
```

If you want to create a link from a section of text, just remove everything from and put some text there instead. If you want to link to a file in another directory on your Web server, simply use the standard forward slash system: Look at my holiday page. Sometimes it's just easier to do the code yourself rather than rely on the inaccuracies of code generators like FrontPage Express!

Q

I have just got involved with the Internet and I would like to get a home page online. I doubt if I could master HTML, so which of the products on the market would be most suitable for a beginner like me? I want to be able to create something better than just a basic page.

Julia Smith

A

My advice would be to look at FileMaker Home Page or GoLive Personal Edition. These are both good packages that are easy to learn and will let you develop your HTML skills at your own pace. You can download free trial versions of this software from www.adobe.com and www.filemaker.com.

Brush up on your HTML skills by making use of the resources found at www.adobe.com

DESIGN DOCTOR

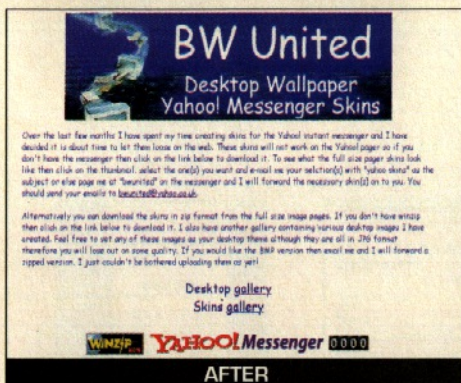
The Design Doctor's waiting list is for readers who have home pages in need of surgical attention. Send the URL to james@paragon.co.uk for a complete recovery

On the couch

<http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Island/7338/>
Brian Watson is a keen creator of skins for the interactive paging utility, Yahoo! Messenger. Skins change the appearance of a particular application, and Brian has made this Web site from a collection of pictures and his own computer graphics that he has turned into skins. Also on the site are a selection of desktop pictures for sprucing up the appearance of your site in general.



BEFORE



AFTER

FIRST PAGE

Oversized logo image

On first visiting the site, you are greeted with an unfeasibly large logo graphic. This is unlikely to be visible in its entirety, unless you're using a 20-inch monitor. As a matter of priority, this has been reduced down to a more manageable size. The computer image that has been used for the borders in the original image has been combined with some graphical text, to create a new logo that is a good size for using on every page of the site.

Blinking text

Mercifully, the serene stillness of the printing process is unable to show you that there was a line of blinking text on the original page. In case you're not familiar with this monstrous HTML tag, the visual effect is to make text appear and disappear like a flickering neon sign. Needless to say, it is incredibly annoying and has been unceremoniously dumped in the redesign. Please don't use the <blink> tag – it's simply too blunt a weapon.

Illegible colour scheme

Although every screen is different, I had difficulty trying to read the text on the front page. White and off-yellow are not a good combination. To make the appearance more user-friendly, a simple white background has been used. On top of this, text has been changed to be blue, whilst maintaining the existing, suitable choice of Comic Sans as a font for the site.

HTML hotspot

A simple stylesheet has been created to make the text in each part of the gallery tables appear in the same font and size. The 'Td' element that is defined, is the standard tag for individual table cells, and this style instruction will therefore have an effect on each cell of the table. This is such a simple implementation of style sheets that it has been incorporated into the <head> section of the HTML file.

```
<style type="text/css">
<!--
TD {font-family:
Comic Sans MS; font-size:
14px }
// -->
</style>
```

SECOND PAGE

Thumbnail tabulation

Brian's definitely got the right idea by providing reduced-sized skin thumbnails on his page. Thumbnails are simply reduced versions of larger images – in this case, they are screenshots of the different desktop pattern designs that can be downloaded. The main problem here is the lack of a table to structure the thumbnails. They have been placed on the page with a string of image tags, and as part of the redesign this has been transformed into a simple table. Tables can be used as invisible layout grids for your Web page – the basic code that I used for this change was:

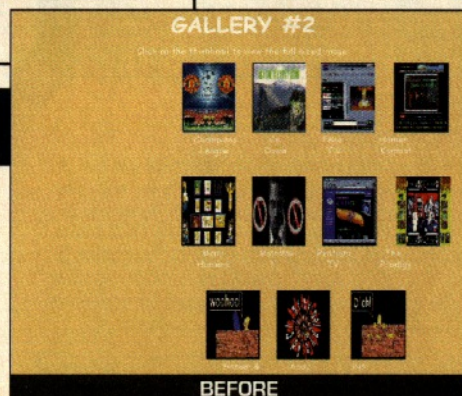
```
<table width="100%" border="0"
cellpadding="5" cellspacing="5">
<tr align="center">
<td>Put image here!</td>
<td>Another one here</td>
<td>and so on</td>
<td>this is the fourth column</td>
</tr>
<tr align="center">
<td>now on the second row</td>
<td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>
```

Navigation nasties

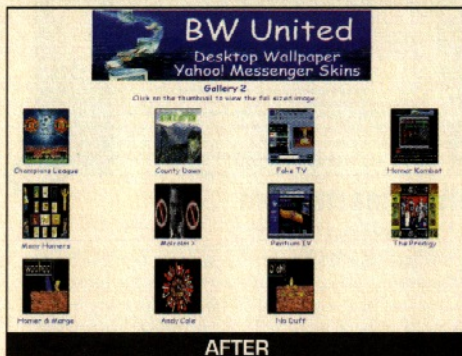
The current design for the internal pages uses a collection of the 'BW United' crest, which is a fairly obvious adaptation of the Manchester United football team crest. Putting issues of plagiarism/fanaticism aside, the main problem with the crest is that it is a very jaggy image. This could be due to many things, but it probably comes down to the choice of graphics package.



The best program to use for creating simple Web graphics in GIF and JPEG formats is PaintShop Pro, available on a 30 day trial on our cover disc. Mac users should head for www.lemkesoft.de and download Graphic Converter. Whatever software you use, be sure never to edit images in 'indexed colour' or '256 colour' mode, because that will reduce the quality of the finished result. Aim for '24-bit' or 'RGB' colour modes instead.



BEFORE



AFTER

DYNAMITE DOZEN

Pay a visit to one of these 12 top resource sites, and you'll find many a useful, free add-on or tutorial to enhance your home page.

ADD-ONS AND TUTORIALS FOR YOUR HOME PAGE



CoolResources

www.coolresources.com

This site is an Aladdin's cave of free resources, with something of interest on offer to all Web masters. The highlight of the site is the tools section, where you will find online tools for instantly building, maintaining and promoting your Web site. There are also forums for Webmasters to compare notes about their problems and successes, plus a comprehensive resource index of other sites. There's also a good number of professionally written tutorials available.



SiteOwner

www.siteowner.com

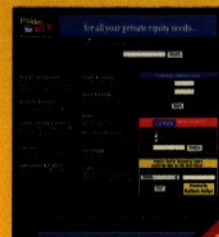
This is an unbeatable shop for checking and improving the quality and popularity of your Web site. Tools that are available for instant and free use include Submit It Free, for sending your URL to top search engines and Link Finder, to discover how many other sites link to your pages.



Script Resources

www.scripts.co.uk

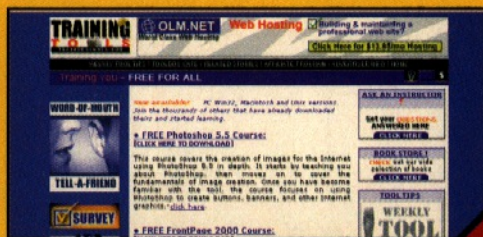
This recently redesigned site offers an impressive home-grown range of JavaScripts and advice about making your own, with plenty of scripts searchable by function or keyword, together with lots of other material. Links to newsgroups, relevant books, and mailing lists abound.



Inside the Web

www.insidetheweb.com

This site looks quite similar to Yahoo! The listed categories don't lead to Web sites, but themed message boards. This means that you can bolt on a free interactive element to your site, and become part of a vast online community in one go. Most boards link to relevant Web pages as well.



Training Tools

www.trainingtools.com

Whilst there are many places on the Net where you can learn about computing and Web technologies for free, most of them fail to provide sufficiently in-depth information to satisfy the appetite of a keen learner. Training Tools solves this problem in one swoop, with its range of downloadable tutorials. You'll need Adobe's free Acrobat Reader in order to view the tutorials, which are very detailed but somewhat annoyingly adorned with adverts at every opportunity.



Getting Started Net

www.gettingstarted.net

An indispensable resource for all beginners in the world of Web design. This site comes packed with tutorials and resources from the great people at Project Cool (www.projectcool.com). There are more advanced topics on offer as well.



BigNoseBird.com

www.bignosebird.com

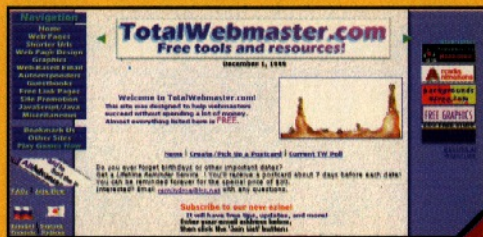
BigNoseBird.com claims to offer "everything you need to build great sites." This is obviously untrue, because it doesn't give you Home Improvement! On top of the standard range of features, there are CGI scripts, Web tutorials and other material that will all come in handy.



NUA Surveys

www.nua.ie

The Net is fertile territory for statistical enquiry, and whilst this might not inspire excitement in most people, the NUA Surveys site will. Here you'll find brilliantly presented and archived summaries of pretty much every study or finding in the last few years. And it's all searchable!



TotalWebmaster.com

www.totalwebmaster.com

Do you feel that your Webmastery is not quite complete? TotalWebmaster is undoubtedly the answer – a site dedicated to providing the needy creator of HTML with as many free and diverse tools as possible. It's not surprising that this site ranks highly in a popular index of free resource sites as it has everything required to guarantee success. If you want to be kept up to speed on changes to the site, sign up for their regular e-zine on the front page.



The Income Cafe

www.theincomecafe.com

If you're interested in earning a crust from your site, check out this battery of links to current affiliate programs. The site design lends itself to speedy access, with very few graphics to hold you up. There's plenty of introductory information and advice about the best programs to join.



Graphx Kingdom

www.graphxkingdom.com

Some sites actually charge money for the quality and quantity of graphics that are being given away free of charge from this site. It boasts many comprehensive sections, covering topics as diverse as flags and cars. Images can be edited online if you're particularly keen.



Builder.com

www.builder.com

Last but definitely not least, this all-important branch of cnet (www.cnet.com) always has some kind of Web weaving gem on offer. They've recently overhauled their design, which gives easier access to their extensive archive of articles, and makes the resource index of other sites more prominent.

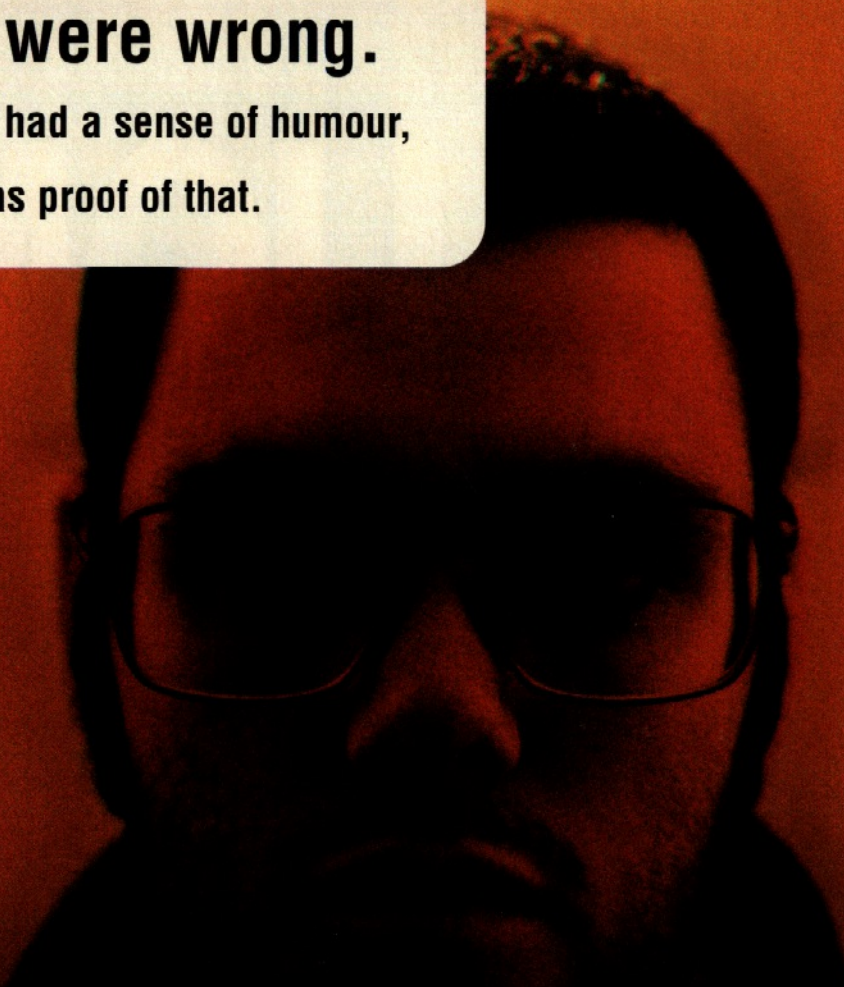


LIFE IN THE ZONES



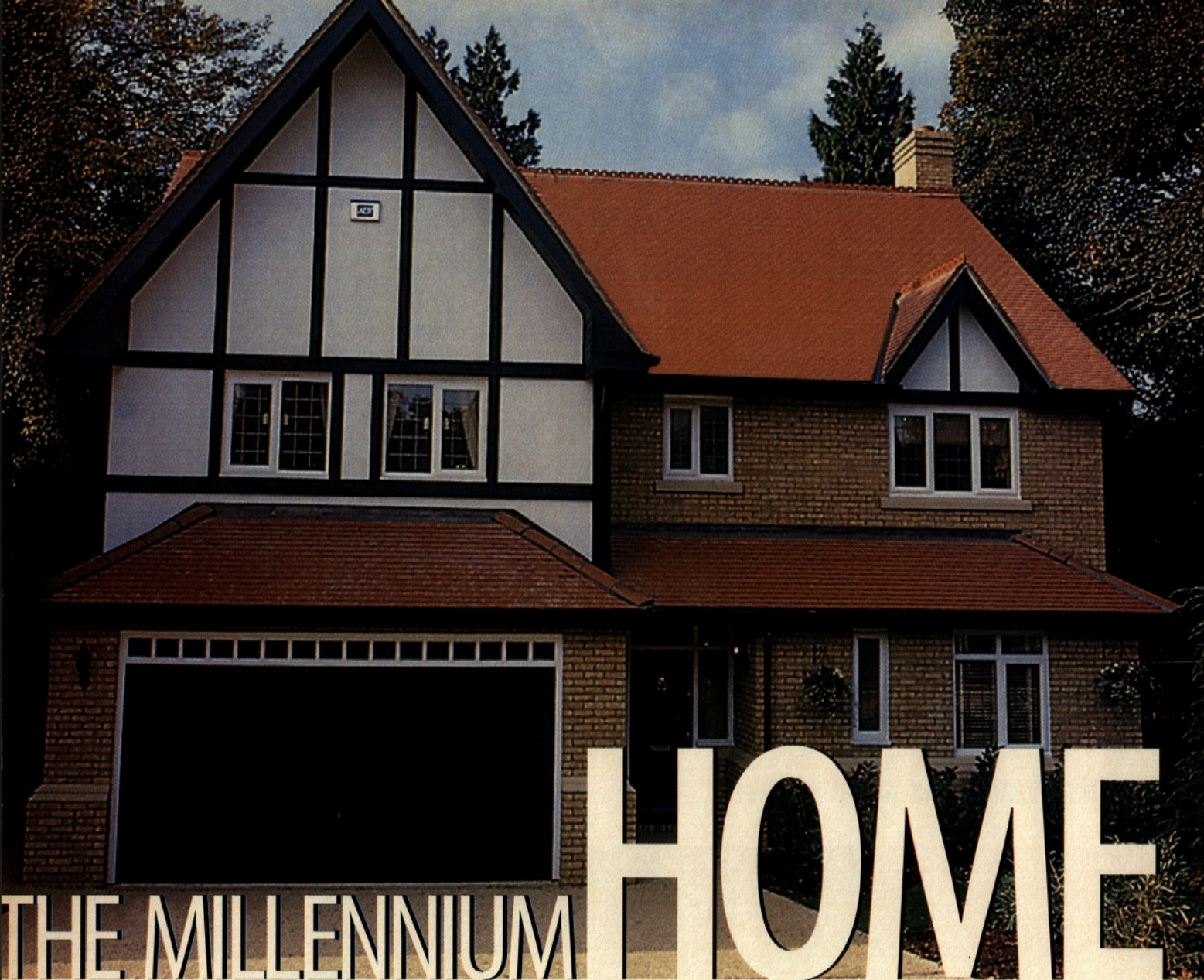
People were wrong.

Jim knew he had a sense of humour,
his avatar was proof of that.



www.virtualzones.co.uk

THE NET JUST GOT PERSONAL - THE ULTIMATE AVATAR COMMUNITY



THE MILLENNIUM

HOME

It's supposed to be the ultimate home for Internet access and you can pick one up for £500,000. But, asks **PAUL NEWMAN**, is it much cop?

It's 6pm and everybody else has left the office. I would join them in the pub, but there's another hour of work to do and a 45 minute drive back to my cold, dark house to negotiate. Finishing off my work, I launch Internet Explorer and log into my house. After turning on the heating and setting the lighting levels, I then program the oven to cook a pizza and prepare to leave for home. With just a few more clicks, I can put my mind at ease by checking the strategically placed security Webcams dotted around my home.

And before the cynics get carried away and cite the various technology turkeys that have been paraded on Tomorrow's World down the years, I'd better tell you that you can actually buy one of these houses on the market right now.

When PI first heard about the ever-so imaginatively titled Internet Home (where do they get these names from?) everybody in the office gathered round excitedly to catch a glimpse of the sales brochure. Any visions of a pyramid shaped space age domicile were instantly dashed. Hell, if it wasn't only bloody Alex Ferguson's house instead!

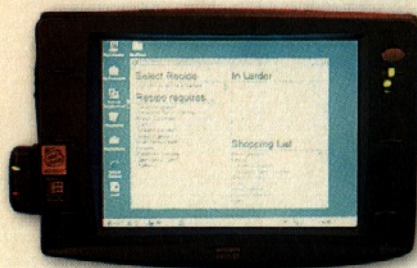
Staring us right out of the pages of the Laing sales brochure was the ultimate Footballer's House. A mock Tudor nightmare which only seemed to lack a pink BMW convertible and the obligatory blonde dolly bird. Finding out that our Premiership des res was located in suburban Watford pretty much sealed it. You wouldn't be able to leave your home for fear of rubbing shoulders with Terry Venables in the newsagents, or bumping into Posh and Becks at the butchers.

"Go up there and check it out," was the brief. "If it's dreadful we can get some mileage out of it, maybe do a humorous piece perhaps. And if it's decent..."

Lets play house

The Internet Home is situated in a very innocuous suburb just a few minutes drive from the M25. It's a sleepy area and one which evokes images of crown green bowls and tea rooms, certainly not cutting edge Internet technology. In fact, the Internet Home is grouped with ten other 'clones' on a showroom-style cul-de-sac. And the outside appearance seems to be very, well, normal.

Inside it's a different matter, with masses of European media figures milling around, each trying to get their own perspective on the house. The project is a



Padding up: the wireless Web pad features touch-screen technology and can be used to adjust all the house's settings

THE RADIATOR



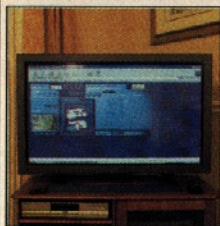
Radiator timers are controlled by the Honeywell Hometriconic system. This allows you to connect to the Net and switch the heating on so you can run around in the buff.

DVD PLAYER

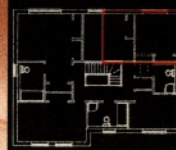


VHS cassettes are a thing of the past. The DVD player can be timed using the Webpad or from outside the house and, of course, it all looks fantastic on the huge TV.

TV



Not just any TV, but a state-of-the-art telly from Fujitsu. Clocking in at a whopping 42 inches, this monster is perfect for accessing the Net and cable TV shopping.



Lounge

The Internet House has all the gadgets and gizmos to please the most loungiest of lounge lizards



This wireless keyboard controls the internal Net access on the TV screen and can be passed around to each member of the family, or used while walking around the room.

CD PLAYER



The CD player is also controlled by timer. Speakers in each room mean music can be pumped through to the kitchen and settings can be programmed via the Webpad.

joint venture between Cisco Systems and Laing Homes, so all their people are running around trying to look after everybody. I'll have to wait my turn for a tour as they try to sort out the various TV crews from Germany, France and the Netherlands who have all descended on Watford.

Once it's my turn, I'm like Ollie Reed let loose at a beer festival, dashing round the rooms like a frenzied fool, desperately trying to remember every detail. And if I'm honest, I was also frantically trying to figure out a way to stash some of the fantastic hardware (worth a stonking £20,000) under my jacket and smuggle it home to sell.

There are gadgets literally everywhere. Videoconferencing units peer out from work tops in the kitchen, Webcams populate each room and in the lounge, there's a top of the range DVD set-up hooked up to the mother of all TVs: a gleaming 42-inch flat screen. Oddly enough among the selection of films included is Hackers, prompting immediate questions about the adequacy of the security. Might someone be able to hack into the house and play havoc with all the settings? The engineers seem confident that nothing could go wrong and swear firewalls are in place to deal with security breaches, but they would say that wouldn't they?

Here today, upgraded tomorrow

One thing Cisco and Laing are both very eager to point out is that the Internet Home has been designed as a home of today, and are keen to avoid that redundant

term 'home of tomorrow'. Understandably they're very keen not to end up being remembered as the latest technology turkey, and have taken steps to ensure that house really is as normal as possible. There's no wacky futuristic gadgets on display here. The whole ethos of the house is based around products that are not only readily available in the shops, but which are also reasonably affordable.

I grab hold of Cisco's UK Technical Director Mike Pilbeam to find out a bit more. "We wanted to go for technology that was available and purchasable and could obviously be Web-enabled. We looked at the things people do on a day-to-day basis and tried to understand how we could affiliate those things with Web applications."

Which is that reason why you can fiddle around with the heating from your office, and all the lighting is controlled by profiles set for each room of the house for each day of the week. It also explains the 'Internet Kettle' and the 'Internet Oven'. Both are really just normal utensils which have been wired up to Honeywell's Hometriconic system – a sort of glorified central heating system which handles all the electrics and can be controlled over the Net.

So essentially this building is just a normal house which full of everyday items, albeit top of the range luxuries. Well not quite. Where the Internet

Brain box: stored in the broom cupboard is the 'brain' of the Internet home, this meaty Cisco router and switch



Call
DVD Ltd



Call
DVD Ltd

NEW DVD STANDS

LOGIC DVD TOWERS



HOLDS 100
DVDs

- Ideal Gift
- Solid Construction
- Flatpacked
- Coated With Resin



HOLDS 50
DVDs



Stands come in:

Black/Chrome or
Silver-grey

Colours:

Natural Beechwood
(Clear Lacquered)

All Stands £5 P&P

ALSO AVAILABLE



(MV50)**£19.99**
(Holds 50 Minidiscs)

- Logic Minidisc Tower



(Holds 50 CDs)**£29.99**
(Holds 100 CDs)**£39.99**

- Logic CD Tower

ALSO AVAILABLE

TC1000



Was
£299
Now
£249

SONY 2000



Was
£159
Now
£125

Also Available Multi-Region DVD Players
Sony, Panasonic, Toshiba, Pioneer, Samsung and Denon
Please Call For Latest Prices

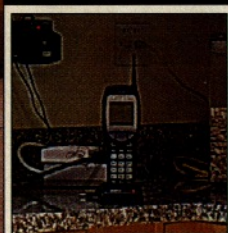
ALL TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME
VISIT OUR WEBSITE ON www.digitalvideodirect.co.uk
OR CALL DVD Ltd, Tel: **01189 269 990** Fax: **01189 260 952**
Hotline **07770 871 007**
Mail Order Hotline: **01189 269 990**



Kitchen

Even when you're cooking up a storm in the kitchen, you can still take control of your affairs with all the gadgets available

SYMBOL HOME SHOPPING SCANNER



Manage all your groceries by scanning in barcodes of new and used goods, the scanner will compile a new shopping list for you and can also store recipe information.

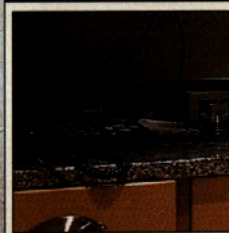
This electric oven works on a timer and can be turned on from either your office or another room in the house. Just make sure you've already got the flapjacks in.

THE INTERNET KETTLE



Need to get in touch with a business contact in Japan while you cook? Use the portable Motion media videoconferencing unit to discuss your strategy.

VIDEO-CONFERENCING



Manage all your groceries by scanning in barcodes of new and used goods, the scanner will compile a new shopping list for you and can also store recipe information.

WEBCAM



Positioned in the windowsill, this moveable Webcam can be used for security monitoring purposes, or checking that saucepans on the hob don't boil over.

➤ Home really differs from normal houses in its wiring. Laing has promised

to equip every new home it builds with the necessary cabling to get online. No matter whether you buy a two bedroom semi or a millionaire's mansion, each new house will come equipped with proportionate amounts of wiring included in the price.

The Internet Home itself has 72 data ports, (including ten in the main study), 72 cables between five and 50 metres in length and four ISDN lines – courtesy of BT – which provide a total of eight digital communication channels. Everything feeds into the 'brain' of the house, a Cisco 1750 desktop router, which lives under the stairs. It's the sort of wiring job where you wouldn't get much change out of £8,000 and a job you definitely wouldn't trust Dave from down the local to knock up over the weekend. Just don't think too much about HAL from 2001, and you'll be fine.

"The fundamental difference between this house and any others is this wiring and we've also got wireless technology involved because we really liked the concept of having a wireless PC" says Mike Pilbeam.

Yes, wireless technology. You can access the settings, individual profiles and Net from anywhere in the house using the wireless Webpad. The touch screen technology also makes it very easy to use. The philosophy is very simple "if you can plug it in it will work", with every

unit in the house able to work, fully Internet equipped, from every plug point.

Designs on life

But perhaps the most important issue addressed by the Internet Home is the concept of integrating the Net into everyday life to save busy people valuable time. It is presumed, for instance, that tenants would do all their shopping over the Net or via digital shopping channels.

Absent parents could set up videoconferencing to help their children with homework and get involved with their development

Families would organise all their food shopping with a scanner and email the resulting shopping lists to online supermarkets. And absent parents could set up videoconferencing to help their children with homework and get involved with their development.

Mike Pilbeam says the house is aimed at "a family who are a busy family, where offloading a couple of hours shopping time each week will make a difference. Maybe a family where one parent travels a lot and needs to maintain a link with their family."

Although both the children's bedrooms both have PCs and are equipped with wireless videoconferencing facilities, I must admit to feeling a little uneasy about the fact parents can monitor their child's every

Temperature's rising: all the heating and lighting is controlled by Honeywell's Hometronic system



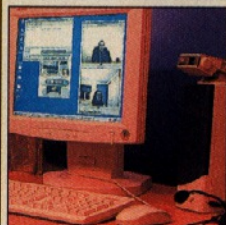
Kids room

There's no room for scribbling on the walls or leaving the toys sprawled out over the floor in this swanky set-up



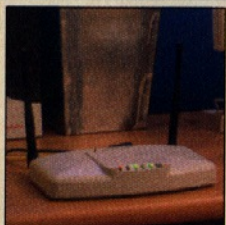
Described by Laing as "Internet access meets rock and roll," these speakers are part of a Total Sound distributed audio-visual system. An MP3 player also replaces an old-fashioned stereo.

WEBCAM



This Intel Webcam enables vigilant parents to keep an eye on their children from downstairs and makes videoconferencing possible when they're away.

WIRELESS SYSTEM



The Symbol Spectrum wireless system connects all the equipment to Cisco's internal router, ensuring easier system management and less bedroom wiring.

The TFT 5000 flat screen monitor and the DeskPro hard drive, both from Compaq, take up very little room and free up more desk space for peripherals and doing homework.

This headset is a videoconferencing aid which allows parents who are working late to communicate with their children and help them with their homework problems.

► movement at will. The upstairs rooms in the house are less technically-oriented than the downstairs ones and the decor is highly questionable. In places it looks as if an LSD-fuelled Carol Smilie has been let loose on a kamikaze mission to 'improve' the walls and fittings. It brings you back to the Footballer's House nightmare

Footballer's House concept is very hard to shake off, reminding me off an infamous and ghastly futuristic home George Best once lived in. But even taking the sickly decor into account, I have to admit it's a whole lot nicer than anywhere I've ever lived.

The concept that everything here can be bought in the shops is a good one and the home offers a fantastic solution to organising a busy life.

Laing has already managed to sell every one of the ten homes it has built

to date, so the Internet Home certainly seems to have market appeal.

Would I live there? Well, give us £500,000 and you never know. I might just see you down the boozer with Vinnie Jones.



It looks as if an LSD-fuelled Carol Smilie has been let loose on a kamikaze mission to 'improve' the walls and fittings

and ensures a hefty redecoration would be in order before you could even consider moving in.

Inspector gadget

The Internet Home is a snapshot of an aspirational and affluent world where there's always money for the next new gadget. It's great fun, but it's unlikely the average PI reader could ever live here. In fact it brings up the question: is this just a big publicity stunt?

"It is a publicity stunt and it's a publicity stunt which is designed to educate people to the possibilities out there," says Mike Pilbeam. "We did it because we wanted to show people what was possible with Net shopping, working from home and keeping in touch with their children." So what's the verdict then? Well, the

Flat screen Eric: Residents can shop online using the digital shopping channels and view goods on the huge 42-inch plasma TV



'All in One'



Netalia's web package combines domain name registration, fast Internet ISDN/Modem connectivity with 40Mb of commercial web space, no more slow connectivity, expensive technical support calls, an ALL-in-ONE Internet Package.

0800 358 0084

NETALIA INTERNET

Our ALL-in-ONE costs £160.00 per annum, and includes all initial naming authority charges.

- Domain Name Registration
- 0845 Internet Access
- 40Mb of commercial web space
- Frontpage support with forms
- Full ftp access
- Colour web statistics
- Full CGI-bin directory
- POP3 mailbox combined with unlimited email addresses
- Webmail and auto-responders
- 3Gb monthly transfer rate

ISDN Network Connectivity

Do you need to connect your office Network to the Internet, but been put off by prices upwards from £800? Our new ISDN network solution is keenly priced at £300 for 64k or £450 for 128k with no set up charges and includes up to 32 network addresses as standard.

E-commerce - A new initiative from Netalia.

In partnership with a leading credit card payment centre we can now provide not only the tools, but subject to approval, a merchant account.

For further details call our sales team. 0800 358 0084

Email: sales@netalia.com

www.netalia.com

The Internet Bookmaker
ukbetting.com



or bet by credit card!

Some things are simpler than others

A.

1. Find an excuse to leave the office.
2. Find cash machine.
3. Queue to withdraw cash.
4. Find your smoky local bookmaker.
5. Fill in betting slip.
6. Queue to place bet.
7. Finally place bet.

B.

1. Connect to www.ukbetting.com
2. Place bet.

UKBETTING.COM offers you secure, live interactive betting directly from the privacy of your own desktop, 24hrs a day.

It couldn't be simpler



SITSEER

Fabulous sites for your pleasure

LIFESTYLE **FOOD AND DRINK** page 72



SPORTS **RUGBY** page 74



FACTUAL **WEATHER** page 76



e

essential clicks

- Search Engines page 72
- Software Downloads.....page 72
- Shopping Malls page 74
- Software Firms page 74
- News.....page 76
- Out and About page 76

Essential clicks

SOME OF THE BEST SITES WHICH YOU WILL RETURN TO AGAIN AND AGAIN

SEARCH ENGINES

ALTAVISTA

www.altavista.co.uk

DEJANEWS

www.dejanews.com

EUROSEEK

www.euroseek.net/

EXCITE

www.excite.com

FOUR11

www.four11.com

GO TO

www.go2.com

HOTBOT

www.hotbot.com

INFOSEEK

www.infoseek.com

LYCOS

www.lycos.co.uk

SEARCH UK

www.searchUK.co.uk

UKONLINE

www.ukonline.com

WEBCRAWLER

www.webcrawler.com

YAHOO! UK & IRELAND

www.yahoo.co.uk

SOFTWARE DOWNLOADS

COOL TOOL

www.cooltool.com

DAVE CENTRAL

www.davecentral.com

DOWNLOAD.COM

www.download.com

FREEWARE.COM

www.freeware.com

FREEHOUND.COM

www.freehound.com

JUMBO SHAREWARE

www.jumbo.com

SHAREWARE.COM

www.shareware.com

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

www.slaughterhouse.com

SOFTSEEK

www.softseek.com

TOP SOFT

www.topsoft.com/

TUCOWS

www.tucows.com

ULTIMATE MACINTOSH

<http://users.aol.com/myee/umac.html>

WINDOWS 98

www.windows98.com

LIFESTYLE FOOD & DRINK



SIMPLY FOOD

URL: www.simplyfood.co.uk

In a nutshell: Non-snobby non-gourmet guide to the good life proves to be a winner

Grab a quick byte to eat

SIMPLY Food is a Web site that will make your taste buds quiver and your mouth water. As part of the TV-based Carlton Food Network (CFN), there's a veritable feast of culinary info waiting to be gobbled up. Whatever time of year you decide to dip your virtual fork into this tasty treat, you'll find a comprehensive collection of culinary comfort.

For starters, tuck into the special party planner to make sure your bash goes off with a big bang and not a pathetic whimper. Get advice on how much to spend, how to write a guest list and how to plan the menu. There's even a handy last-minute checklist to ensure you don't forget anything. But if you're still worried or have a burning question, you can email CFN grub guru Alan Coxon. He runs a regular live forum to answer all your queries as well as giving hints on how to produce cracking cooking. As you might expect, there's lots of plugs for the actual



television channel. For example, there's a TV Guide as well as biographies of the chefs and presenters. But fair play – this isn't just a site that says 'to find out more, subscribe to our TV channel.' In fact, the sheer depth of content on this colourful site can get overwhelming at times, although the designers have done their best to make it easy to navigate.

Cookin' good!

There's a good level of reader interactivity on the site – for example, check out the give-away section called Chomp! At the time of writing, the prizes up for grabs include champagne, trips to Paris and even a Dualit toaster, whatever that may be!

Being pretty useless in the kitchen, one of our favourite sections is 10 Things To Do With..., which gives you some great ideas on how to spice up mundane edibles such as vegetables. And if

you're looking for some plonk to go with your creations, check out the Glug section. Discover what the experts have selected as their Wine of the Week or read reviews of six hand-picked red wines from around the world. If you want to impress, read the section on how to read a label and how to taste wine. There's even a section on how to match wines to your meal. In fact, after spending a bit of time reading through this excellent section, you too will be able to talk pretentiously about dark smoky textures and light fruity aromas.

A brilliant site that is both practical and fascinating. Definitely something no Delia Smith wannabe should be without.



THE ALTERNATIVE TO FOOD AND DRINK UK

URL: www.southroad.freemove.co.uk/Altfood.htm/**In a nutshell:** Celebration of all the best things about snacking and bingeing

Far out to lunch

A Web site which tests supermarket cider? was the initial response from the PI team, one swiftly followed up by Managing Editor Geoff Harris with 'Is it the strong stuff?' Yes, it's true, this homage to alternative food really does test each leading supermarket's strongest cider. But that's not all. Lurking in this cultural backwater are plenty more off-the-wall snacks and drinks that stand about as much chance of getting on TV with Ainslie Harriott as Hannibal the Cannibal.



Set up defiantly to challenge the staid posturing of Food and Drink this site covers everything bad about British dietary habits and is ideal for those who have recurring nightmares (or dreams) about gherkins, chilli sauce and Pot Noodles. We can't think of a better reason to visit and in case you were wondering, Spar topped the supermarket cider charts and our local shop has mysteriously sold out. Hic.

◆◆◆◆◆

GRAPESEEK

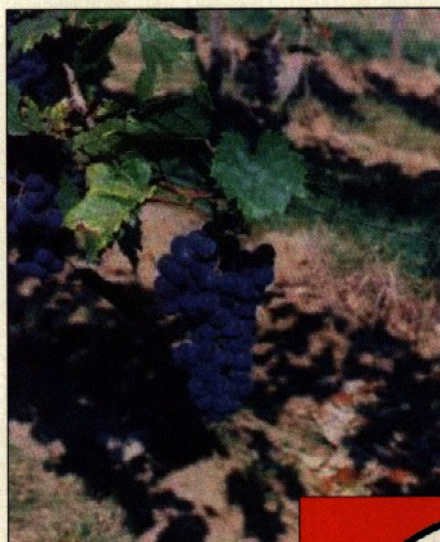
URL: www.grapeseek.com**In a nutshell:** No grapes of wrath for your reviewer here, just pink elephants on parade

One for the vine

THOSE who readily balk at the very thought of cheap supermarket cider (ignore above site, then) and plastic two litre bottles of beer, may well find solace in Grapeseek, which offers a more cultured solution to their drinking needs.

Grapeseek is a search engine that aims to bring the best of the Web to all those who swear by the vine. There are grape growing forums where enthusiasts can swap tips and methods along with links to books which show you how to create a vintage. With links to grape growing, vineyards and corkage there's no doubt that spending too much time here could easily result in a more refined palette, not to mention a best customer award from Thresher.

◆◆◆◆◆



THE VEGETARIAN SOCIETY OF THE UK

URL: www.vegsoc.org/**In a nutshell:** First-class online resource to the joys of giving up meat

Everything's gone green

OF course not everybody in life is a ravenous carnivore, so if you're of a vegetarian persuasion there are few better resources on the Web than this great site from the Vegetarian Society. With

an excellent interface and a superb range of entertaining and practical content, this site is more than enough to remind even seasoned bacon fans that vegetarian eating can be quite a mouth-watering prospect. Everything you might want to know is here, from the principles behind vegetarianism to tips on creating a balanced diet without meat products. There's also a host of recipes to get the tastebuds buzzing, including celebrity recipes from top comedians like John Cleese and, er, Phil Cool.

◆◆◆◆◆



In essence, the site is a list of contacts for the different regional branches, when we were rather hoping for a detailed break down of PI Tackler from the Sprocket and Gonad brewery. ◆◆◆◆◆

THE CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

URL: www.camrabranches.org.uk**In a nutshell:** Seasoned beard stroker's guide to all things hop-filled and traditional

Candid CAMRA

CAMRA, or the Campaign for Real Ale, is flying the flag for traditionally brewed British beers, and aims to lend a helping hand as they continue to flail in the wake of stiff competition from imported 'designer' lager from the continent. Although the organisation is dedicated to preserving the country's brewing heritage and to reminding us all that brewing ale is as much an art as creating a fine wine, this is quite a shocking Web site and one that needs plenty of work as far as we're concerned.

Best of the rest

GORGE YOURSELF ON THESE OTHER GREAT CULINARY SITES



FoodnDrink

www.foodndrink.co.uk

Another online food guide dedicated to the joys of eating and drinking. FoodnDrink brings you all the information, tips and recipes you'll need

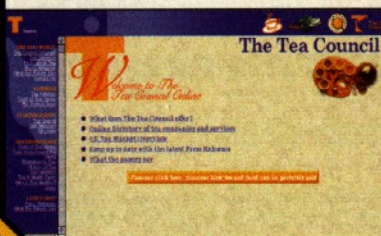
zedtee.com



Zed Tee

www.zedtee.com

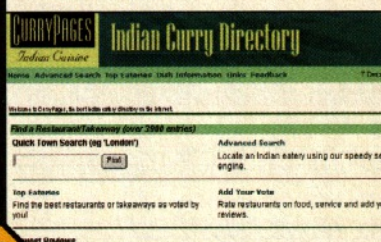
There's no argument where we're concerned that a traditional English breakfast is the best way to start the day. Get the recipe from here



The Tea Council

www.teacouncil.co.uk

Nothing quite like a cup of tea to warm British cockles, apart from a mug of steaming coffee, or maybe even a Bovril



Curry Pages

www.currypages.com

One of the great things about having draconian licensing laws is you can always find an open curry house. Get some addresses from here



Doner Ride

www.btinternet.com/~doner.ride/

Form the relative sophistication of the curry house to the lowest point of the takeaway food chain. This is a homage to the food we all love to hate

Essential clicks

SOME OF THE BEST SITES WHICH YOU WILL RETURN TO AGAIN AND AGAIN

SHOPPING MALLS

BEST OF BRITISH

www.thebestofbritish.com

BRITISH SHOPPING MALL

www.britshop.com

I WANT TO SHOP

www.iwanttoshop.com/

THE MARKET CROSS

www.marketcross.com

MARKETNET

www.mkn.co.uk

NETSHOPPING

www.netshopping.co.uk

ONESTORE

www.one-store.co.uk

SCI-FI UK SUPERSTORE

www.scifi-uk.com

SHOPGUIDE

www.shopguide.co.uk

SHOPPERS UNIVERSE

www.shoppersuniverse.com

THE SHOPPING PAVILION

www.vossnet.co.uk/shopping

THE UK SHOPPING CITY

www.ukshops.co.uk

WEBLINKS LTD

www.weblinks.co.uk

SOFTWARE FIRMS

ADOBE

www.adobe.com

EUDORA

www.eudora.com

IBM

www.ibm.com

INTEL

www.intel.co.uk

JASC

www.jasc.com

MACROMEDIA

www.macromedia.co.uk

MICROSOFT

www.microsoft.co.uk

NETSCAPE

www.netscape.com

REALNETWORKS

www.real.com

SAUSAGE

www.sausage.com

SOFTQUAD

www.sq.com

SUN MICROSYSTEMS

www.sun.co.uk

WWW CONSORTIUM

www.w3.org

SPORTS RUGBY

PLANET RUGBY

URL: www.planet-rugby.com

In a nutshell: Quite literally a planet full of rugby and a splendid resource, well done



A rucking marvellous site

WITH the inaugural Six Nations tournament just round the corner and the Heineken European cup reaching a fevered climax, this would appear to be the perfect opportunity for SiteSeer to take a closer look at the Web's rugby sites, be they, like the England team, good, bad or ugly.

Where rugby is concerned, the current Internet trend with Web sites seems to be constructing large portals, (a concept originally thought out with the Rugby World Cup in mind), with the aim of tapping into large potential consumer and advertising based revenue.

This desire to tap into an 'aspirational' market has meant that in addition to Planet Rugby we also get other large directory style sites like Scrum.Com and One Rugby Place. There's plenty of money to be made from rugby fans, who advertisers regard as coming from a more affluent and desirable background than fans of other sports like, say, football. It's also an image which is born out in the way rugby players are stereotyped as solicitors and doctors who just happen to play a bit. In terms of content the end result of all this means we get these big, hi-brow sites which feature broadsheet style writing, enormously high production values and very user friendly interfaces – which is no bad thing.

Scrum and get it

So what you get with Planet Rugby is a great site, which covers all the necessary angles and is easily the best rugby site on the Net for

three distinct reasons. The content is comprehensive, it's rammed full of statistical information and the overall design is good enough to make it a joy to use.

In fact Planet Rugby is so thorough its hard to know exactly where to start, so let's try the beginning. Like most sports site the home page contains all the latest news and here you get bang up to date team news, results and reports. The news content is short and snappy and links to larger versions inside. Where features are concerned the editorial standards are maintained and expert analysis is proffered by Aussie World Cup winner Michael Lynagh and England star Richard Hill.

Most of all, though, rugby fans will enjoy this site for the vast database where they can glean information about their favourite team. Every top division English side has its own statistics database where supporters can check the amount of appearances and points players have

contributed to their sides and settle those office debates about exactly how many tries Lawrence Dallaglio has scored for England.

Rugby fans should definitely bookmark this site immediately for both its quality and the speed with which it responds to

developments in the world of rugby. Top stuff.



JONAH LOMU

URL: <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~hughplum/>

In a nutshell: Gloriously unofficial photo tribute to the scourge of Carling's England

Jonah groaner

HE'S so famous even your mum's heard of him. He stands six feet five, clocks in at a whopping 19 stone and delights in running rings round English sportsmen on both the rugby field and in Pizza Hut adverts.

Jonah Lomu is the most famous rugby player in the world and he proudly wears the famous All Black shirt of the New Zealand national side. This very unofficial home page has plenty of pics of the man in action and surprise, surprise most



seem to picture him merrily trampling all over the opposition.

Not quite the Net presence such a ubiquitous sports legend deserves, but you have to admit the man's a colossus. We'd definitely have the measure of him at bar skittles or tiddlywinks, mind. ♦♦♦♦♦

BATH RUGBY CLUB

URL: www.bathrugby.com

In a nutshell: Slick site for the most famous team in British rugby history

Hot Bath

ANYBODY who has followed rugby closely over the last few years will have found it difficult to ignore Bath. Having provided international players of the calibre of Jeremy Guscott, Ben Clarke (pictured) and Mike Catt, this West Country club has proved the most successful side in world rugby over the last few years. Bath have won virtually every trophy on offer in club



rugby and although falling on lean times over the last few seasons, this site serves as a reminder that they were one of the first rugby clubs to get their act together on the Internet.

Bath Rugby is a well-designed site with plenty of club news and a handy list of fixtures and results: it should prove essential to those fans living out of reach from the city's local paper. The best thing here is probably the squad page with biographical information and pictures of all the team's stars, although a concerted effort has also been made to provide some interest for younger fans.

A slick site, but docked a point for its hard sell approach on the home page. ♦♦♦♦♦

SCRUM.COM

URL: www.scrum.com

In a nutshell: Top-notch site offering great writing and up-to-date news

Packing down

ANOTHER site taking the same 'rugby portal' approach as Planet-Rugby is Scrum.Com. As is the case with Planet Rugby, Scrum.Com features all the latest news and views from the rugby fraternity, laced with plenty of features and links to club rugby throughout all the major European nations. The content is well written throughout the site and is equally well presented, with star columnist John Inverdale providing the necessary editorial bite.

With specific areas dedicated to women's rugby, student rugby and online shopping, Scrum.Com does a pretty good job of covering just about all the rugby issues of the day. A top site which was only just edged out of top spot by Planet Rugby. ♦♦♦♦♦



SUPER 12 RUGBY

URL: www.super12rugby.com

In a nutshell: The world's most exciting rugby tournament gave us a bit of a mauling

Party pooper twelve

IF there's one thing to make any British rugby player soil their pants, it's having to compete against southern hemisphere sides like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

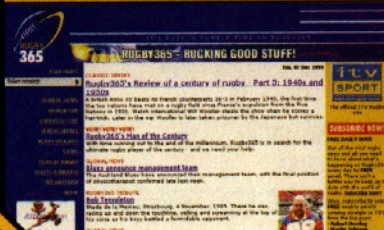
However, this is one southern hemisphere product which doesn't leave its British equivalents lagging behind in the dressing room still tying up their boot laces. Super 12 Rugby is generally acknowledged as the finest and most entertaining variety of rugby in the world, but you wouldn't believe it looking at this woefully inadequate Web site.

With no real player profiles, paltry team pages and no images to speak of you'll be wasting your valuable Net time here. ♦♦♦♦♦



Best of the rest

MORE GREAT RUGBY SITES THAT'LL HAVE YOU THROWING YOUR BALLS AROUND WITH GLEE



Rugby 365

www.rugby365.co

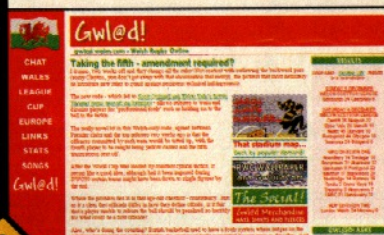
Danny Kelly's rugby resource proves to be even better than his Football 365 site, which is a bit of an achievement really



One Rugby Place

www.onerugbyplace.com

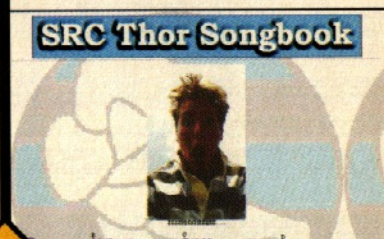
Yet another rugby digest site which although failing to reach the peaks of Planet Rugby, still contains some useful info and some shopping links



Gwl@d!

www.hotchips.demon.co.uk

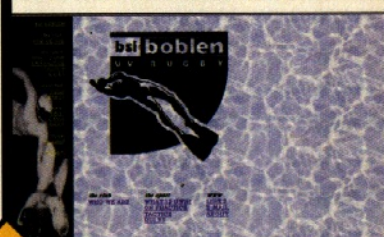
The Welsh symbolise everything romantic in British rugby: male voice choirs, Delilah, sweaty buttocks... Find out more about the Welsh game here



Thor's Rugby Songs

www.oli.tudelft.nl/thor/songs.html

Dutchman Thor has gathered together a huge collection of rugby songs and put them on audio files. Very handy for those last orders moments



Underwater Rugby

www.gfi.uib.no/~even/boblén/

We weren't even aware that the Norwegians played rugby, let alone reached the stage where they start inventing customised underwater versions

Essential clicks

SOME OF THE BEST SITES WHICH YOU WILL RETURN TO AGAIN AND AGAIN

NEWS

CNN

www.cnn.com

BBC NEWS

www.bbc.co.uk

ELECTRONIC TELEGRAPH

www.telegraph.co.uk

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

www.guardian.co.uk

HOTWIRED

www.hotwired.com

THE INDEPENDENT

www.independent.co.uk

ITN

www.itn.co.uk

MET OFFICE

www.met-office.gov.uk

MSNBC

www.msnbc.com

NANDO TIMES

www.nando.net

PA NEWS

www.pa.press.net

SUNDAY TIMES

www.sunday-times.co.uk

THE TIMES

www.the-times.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT

ALTON TOWERS

www.alton-towers.co.uk/

BRISTOL ZOO

www.bristolzoo.org.uk/

BRITISH MUSEUM

www.british-museum.ac.uk

LEGOLAND WINDSOR

www.legoland.co.uk/

MILLENNIUM DOME

www.dome2000.uk

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

NAT. MARITIME MUSEUM

www.nmm.ac.uk

NAT. RAILWAY MUSEUM

www.nmsi.ac.uk/nrm

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

www.royalacademy.org.uk

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

www.nmsi.ac.uk/welcome.html

THE TATE GALLERY

www.tate.org.uk

THORPE PARK

www.thorpepark.co.uk/

VICTORIA AND ALBERT

www.vam.ac.uk

FACTUAL WEATHER



BBC WEATHER CENTRE

URL: www.bbc.co.uk/weather

In a nutshell: John Ketley is an online weather man and so is Michael Fish!

Weather Report

THINK about this question for a second. Where's the first place you would think to look for news about what the weekend weather in Bognor Regis is going to be like? If you're like us the answer is probably going to be the TV and good old Michael Fish. The radio has its moments, but all it takes is the shipping forecast to rear its ugly head during a particularly sticky stage of a Test Match and everything's ruined.

With the Net not only can you get instant access to the latest weather from your own desktop, but you can also set your own agenda. Yes, you're totally free to call up the weather maps you want to see, bypass all the boring bits about the Shetland Isles and what's even better is you'll never have to see another irritating presenter ever again.

The BBC's online weather centre is a superb site for getting information and what's more is that you can look at the latest forecasts on those

oh so familiar blue and green BBC maps. The first page of the site is exactly as it should be with all the latest weather at a glance and the option of clicking on the maps to make them larger. Also present are a number of pull-down menus which allow you speedy access to local information, to choose a town and also view in-depth summaries.

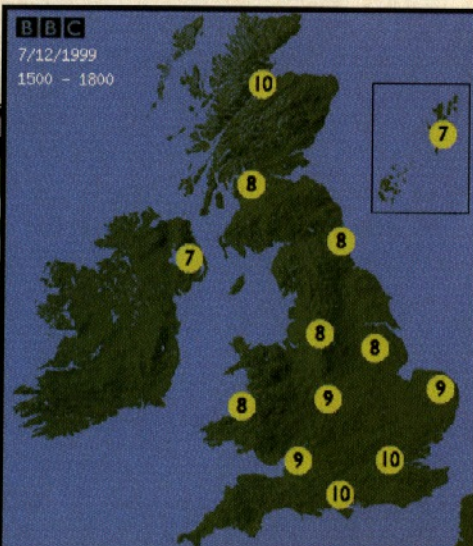
Weather features

But before you all start to nod off in boredom, the good thing about this site is that the BBC have gone to great lengths to make the site interesting. Yes, you heard right, interesting.

Plenty of features cover everything from the greenhouse effect to hurricane naming, the weather almanack adds a touch of novelty and the article on how to produce the weather is a nice touch. With access to world weather forecasts and a liberal smattering of vibrant content we've no grounds for complaint. This site really is the tornado's whiskers – it's no wonder Wincey Willis has been relegated to the Panto circuit. ♦♦♦♦♦



EUROPE - INTERACTIVE MAP



TORRO

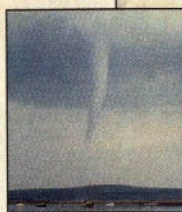
URL: www.torro.org.uk

In a nutshell: Reference site covering the various meteorological phenomena in the UK

Up the spout

IN case you're wondering, Torro stands for Tornado and Storm Research Organisation which is a British-based body set up to research, er, tornados and storms.

Amazingly, Britain has one of the largest incidences of tornadoes in relation to its size than virtually anywhere else in the world and the purpose of this site is to dispel some of the myths surrounding this often devastating



weather phenomenon. The site is definitely worth a look to see pics of both the damage a tornado can do and the infamous water spout (pictured) that once terrorised the Solent.



MULTI-MAP

URL: <http://uk.multimap.com/map/weather.cgi>

In a nutshell: Part of the handy multi-map suite, we like it a lot

Mapping it all up

NOW this is the sort of practical Web site that us lot at Practical Internet really enjoy. It's also one that we've used in the past ourselves. The interface here is so simple even your granny could use it. Simply go to the map of the UK and click on the area you require weather for and hey presto, it appears! You only need to know where you live.

Other facilities include a UK street map which we found remarkably effective when a certain drunk staff writer rang us up on his way to a press bash in Soho needing directions. But whatever your needs, find your way around here.



EL NINO

URL: www.elnino.com

In a nutshell: Windy weather, I'm at the end of my tether...

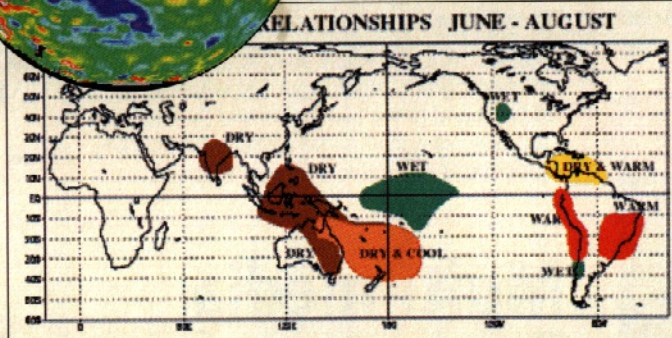
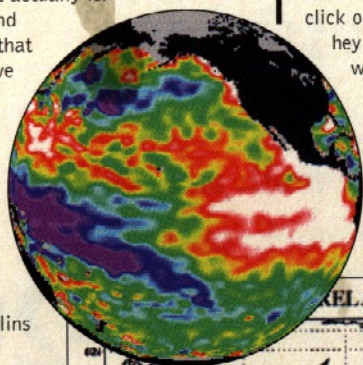
Small child's play

ABSOLUTELY everybody has heard of El Nino, but few know what it actually is.

Log on to this site and you'll soon discover that El Nino is a repetitive weather pattern and that it's Spanish for the small child.

It's a puzzling name for a weather phenomenon quite so havoc-wreaking and as US stand-up comedian Henry Rollins recently observed a better option would be to call it after the first four Black Sabbath albums.

Get on the right track to becoming an El Nino expert overnight with this informative and, at times, interesting site.



Best of the rest

OTHER METEOROLOGICAL SITES PACKED WITH INFO TO HELP YOU WEATHER THE STORM



1

Avalanche!

www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/avalanche

Nova is a documentary series that covers the most dramatic moments in nature. This site is dedicated to coverage of avalanches

2

A Hurricane Hunter's Photo Album

<http://members.aol.com/hotelq>

This site has been put up by an ex-fighter pilot who gets off on flying through hurricanes. Fool

3

Online Weather

www.onlineweather.com

Online Weather is sailing-friendly. Yacht and dinghy fans can check how choppy the seas are and check the latest shipping forecast

4

ENN Special Report: Climate Change

www.enn.com/specialreports/climate/

We're all going to die when oceans flood... Find out the disturbing truth about global warming

5

Snow

www.niksula.cs.hut.fi/~mnikkane/

It hasn't really snowed in Britain for years and years, but this fun-site will give you plenty of ideas about what to do when it finally arrives

WEST VIRGINIA LIGHTNING

URL: <http://wvlightning.com>

In a nutshell: Some of the best lightning pics in existence

Strike it plucky

THERE are some things in life you can't do anything about, Man Utd winning the league, Cliff Richard's Millennium Prayer or the risk of being struck by lightning. This site not only relives the experience of being struck by lightning with accounts from real life survivors, but is also dedicated to some of the stunning effects that are created by a combination of lightning and atmospheric conditions. Although very US-specific, this is an interesting site which definitely impressed us.





GET MORE FROM YOUR E-MAIL!

Turn e-mail into Voicemail!

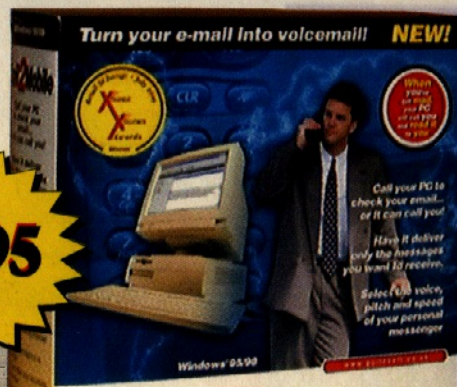
Out and about and expecting an important e-mail?

Check your e-mails and have them read to you (in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish) by using any touch-tone phone to call your PC - or have it call you! Select the voice, pitch and speed of your personal messenger, filter your messages, receive them as and when you choose and respond with one of three pre-defined answers.

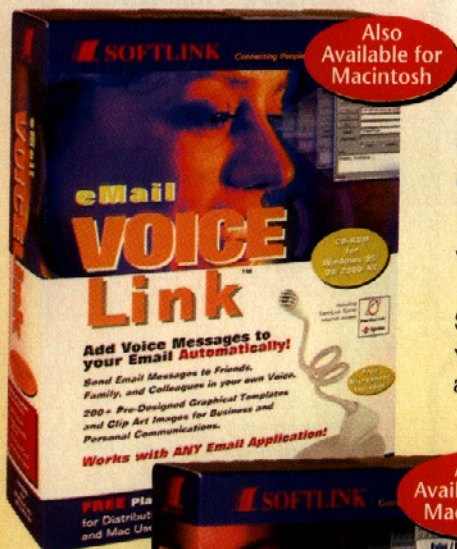


£39.95

inc VAT
P&P £7.05



Mail2Mobile
e-mail on your mobile
Always be in touch!



Also Available for
Macintosh

Add Voice Messages to e-mail!

You don't have to type e-mails any more.

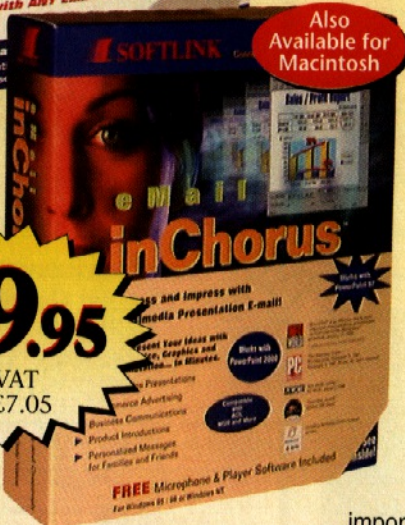
Save time and effort by using your voice to compose your messages.

Your voice adds personality, clarity and impact to any e-mail and you can say exactly what you mean.

VOICELink is incredibly easy to use - open up the program, record your voice message, add text and any attachments and then send - and it works with all e-mail applications including Netscape Mail, Outlook, Eudora and AOL.

£29.95

inc VAT
P&P £7.05



£49.95

inc VAT
P&P £7.05

Multi-media Presentation e-mail!

Express and Impress with eMail inChorus

Give your e-mails unparalleled impact. With inChorus you can record and present your ideas with the power of voice, images and animated annotation in minutes. Integrate text and sound, import graphics, capture screen shots and annotate from a document or PowerPoint presentation.

While the visuals are being displayed, they are explained and enhanced by the creation of voice, sound and music messages.

inChorus works with all e-mail applications including Netscape Mail, Outlook, Eudora and AOL.

VOICELink and inChorus include a FREE high-quality computer microphone (PC version only) and FREE Multimedia Player, so you can send your messages to Mac and Windows users.

GUILD SOFT
COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The Software Centre, East Way,
Lee Mill Industrial Estate,
Ivybridge, Devon PL21 9GE
Tel: 01752 895100
Fax: 01752 894833
e-mail: sales@guildsoft.co.uk
Web: www.guildsoft.co.uk

Order NOW! Call Freephone 0800 289041

001GUPRI

SOFTSPOT

REVIEW: NET ACCELERATORS: PAGE 80
 TUTORIAL: IE 5.01: PAGE 82
 TUTORIAL: PHOTOSUITE 3: PAGE 84
 TUTORIAL: WEB MAGNET: PAGE 86
 TUTORIAL: DREAMWEAVER 3: PAGE 88

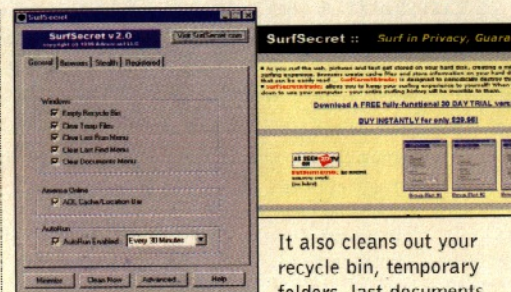
ALL THE LATEST SOFTWARE NEWS, NET ACCELERATORS REVIEWED AND TUTORIALS FOR INTERNET EXPLORER 5.01, PHOTOSUITE 3, WEB MAGNET AND DREAMWEAVER 3

HIDE THOSE SURFING SECRETS!

IF you're the kind of Net user who occasionally views racy material, but you don't want the embarrassment of being discovered by other users of your PC, SurfSecret could be ideal.

The program lets you surf any sites you want in privacy. This is useful because as you surf the Web, pictures and text get stored onto your hard disk, creating a mirror image of your surfing experience. Browsers create cache files and store information on your hard disk, creating a trail that can be easily read.

Fortunately, SurfSecret is designed to periodically destroy the trail. It can run automatically (every minute, every five minutes, every hour, and so on), and clear your cache, cookie, and history folders; as well as all the type in your Netscape, Internet Explorer, and AOL toolbars.



It also cleans out your recycle bin, temporary folders, last documents used, last run files, and last found files. The program also features in-built Stealth Mode and password protection that allow the program to hide in memory so nobody will know SurfSecret is running.

You'll find a free 30-day trial version on the SurfSecret Web site at www.surfsecret.com, from where you can also buy the full program, costing \$30.



SHAREWARE JUNKIE

CATCH UP WITH THE LATEST AND GREATEST SHAREWARE RELEASES

Lightning Linker

<http://216.65.60.219/products.html>
LIGHTNING Linker lets you quickly add your Web site link to thousands of search engines and directories. You simply enter your URL, email address, Web site title, category, and description, and you are done.

Speaking Email Deluxe

www.uk-software.com/speakingemail.htm
SPEAKING Email Deluxe is an email reader which allows you to have your messages read to you by a specific Microsoft Agent character. You can have the program read the sender's name, the subject, and a short section of the message. You can also have up to 99 email accounts, delete any waiting messages from your server, and send free faxes anywhere in the world as long as it is covered by the free TPC (The Phone Company) service.

Cyber-Info Email Notify

www.cyber-info.com/CYBER-INFO Email Notify (shareware) is an email notification utility (with a built-in email client) that can check multiple POP and Web mail accounts for new mail and optionally delete spam. A pop-up message with sound lets you know that mail has arrived. You can launch an external mail reader or quickly view, delete, reply, forward and send email without having to load your full email package.

Neighbourhood Web watch



THE days of spending hundreds of pounds in order to monitor your home with a high-tech security system have been swept away following the launch of a new motion-sensitive Webcam application. HomeWatcher lets you monitor your home with your existing Webcam and Internet account. It takes

snapshots at regular time intervals, then compares each snapshot with the previous one, and saves the snapshot when motion is detected.

Keep 'em peeled

The program can dial up an Internet connection, then upload images and Web pages to your site, or store snapshots and Web pages locally. You can customise all the parameters involved – the sensitivity of the motion detection, the mode and interval, the number of snapshots you want to keep on your Web site, the layout of a Web page, the minimum and maximum number of uploads per hour, and more.

It's ideal for people travelling overseas who want to keep an eye on their property by using the Net while they're away. HomeWatcher works with standard Windows video capture devices plus PhotoPC-compatible digital cameras. The program also runs as an icon in the System Tray area of the Windows taskbar.

You'll find the freeware version of HomeWatcher on our cover CD. The full version (costing approx £20) will email each of the snapshots when they're taken. More details at www.homewatcher.com.

Boost your home security with a Webcam



Fireworks lift off

MACROMEDIA has unveiled version three of Fireworks, the popular image editing and drawing package designed for creating Web graphics. Fireworks is perfect for creating buttons, image maps, animated GIFs and detailed illustrations. An export preview window lets you slice, crop and scale images to optimally balance file size with image quality. Image mapping tools are built into the program, and a slice function lets you convert large images into smaller ones that are displayed inside an HTML table.

Although image editing can be done at the pixel level, Fireworks lets you take advantage of drawing tools that use standard Bezier editing techniques like those found in PhotoShop, Corel Draw and Fractal Painter. You can add special effects to any object (such as bevels, blurs and drop shadows) and as you edit text, special effects are re-applied, so you never have to re-type.

Fireworks offers a full selection of brushes and fills, animated GIF creation tools, and the ability to create JavaScript buttons and rollovers. You can download a free 30 day trial of the program from www.macromedia.com/software/fireworks.



Reviewed: Net Accelerators

It doesn't matter how good your connection is; it could always be faster. **CLIVE PARKER** boosts his system by trying out five of the best-known Net Accelerators

IT'S funny how people complain about slow download speeds. When I started using BBS services and CompuServe in the late Eighties, my trusty old Atari ST served me well using a modem that cost almost £200. It connected to the Net at the slow speed of 1200/75. That figure means I could

download at 1.2k bits per second and upload at 75 bits per second. Any file over 50K bytes per second was a major download. You should have seen the phone bills!

Now we have our 56k modems, 112k dual ISDN lines and ADSL just around the corner. And it's still too slow.

Most PC systems are not set up to transfer data at the most efficient rate. Luckily for us, there are a lot of enterprising software writers out there who know how to tweak our systems for the best results. Five programs, all of which are on our CD, go on test here.

TOPTIP

Since these programs alter your Windows system settings, back up the files on your hard disk

FastNet99

FASTNET99 is an unusually technical tool that is probably more use to dedicated techies than the average home user, but it can certainly help you speed up your Web browsing. It doesn't use caching or change your connection settings. Instead, it speeds up your Web browsing by running DNS (Domain Name Server) lookups from a local file on your PC.

When you connect to a Web site, you type the URL in the address bar of your browser. Typically, it's something like www.paragon.co.uk. But the actual address of that Web site is a series of four numbers (195.112.58.3) called the IP number. So between typing in the address and the home page downloading, the URL has to be converted to the IP number. This is performed by a computer called a domain name server. Basically, it holds a list of IP numbers and converts when a page is requested. Unfortunately, this all takes time.

FastNet99 holds a list of DNS files on your PC, so when you type the URL into the Web browser, it is converted to the IP number straight away. You can easily add new

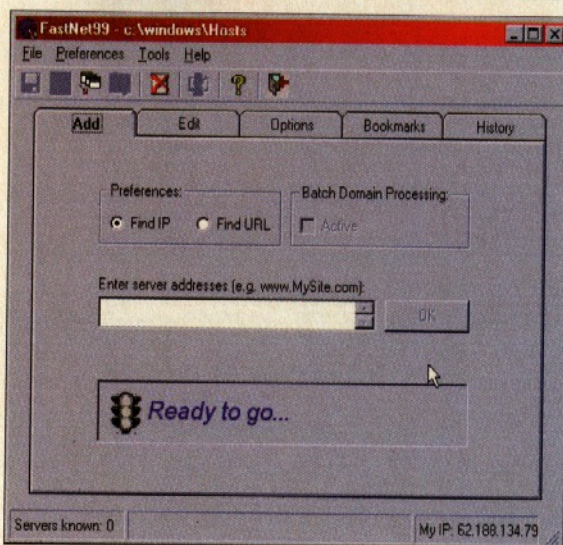
URLs to the DNS list in **FastNet99** to speed up your browsing. It's pretty easy to set up and use, and it ties in with your browser whether you use Internet Explorer, Netscape Communicator or even Opera. A selection of other useful Net tools, such as Ping, completes the package.



Product: FastNet99
Web: www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Stadium/1851
Email: gcrlaco@geocities.com
Price: Freeware

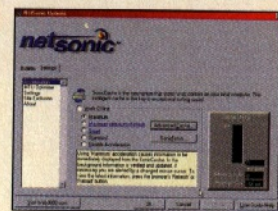
SOFTSPOT SCOREBOARD

Features: 88% A fine selection of Net tools
Ease of use: 75% Not for the complete novice
Value: 90% Free once more
Overall: 89% Useful and innovative Net utility



If you've had a bit of experience on the Internet, **FastNet99** is a handy piece of software to speed up your connection

NetSonic 2.5



NETSONIC 2.5 is a handy little tool that enables you to speed up your Web browsing by using an intelligent look-ahead cache. What does that mean? Well, whenever

you go back to a Web site you have previously visited, **NetSonic** examines the page to see if it has changed since the last visit. If the page is still the same, it is loaded straight from the **NetSonic** cache. If the page has changed, **NetSonic** downloads the changes to its cache in the background.

If this all sounds very familiar, it should do. The cache systems built into Internet Explorer and Netscape Communicator work in much the same way, except that **NetSonic** is much more configurable and user-friendly.

Using the cache system, you can set up **NetSonic** to download pages in advance so you can browse them offline. The cache size is configurable – the larger you make it the faster the program will work. Other features in the freeware version include preloading links or visited links and excluding Web sites from **NetSonic** caching.

Most of the more useful features are disabled in the freeware version. MTU settings and some of the acceleration settings cannot be used. While the freeware version is useful enough, it loses marks because the program is crippled. And to make things a little worse, you get adverts embedded into the frame of your browser.

Product: NetSonic 2.5
Web: www.web3000.com
Email: comments@web3000.com
Price: Freeware, Pro version costs \$39.95

SOFTSPOT SCOREBOARD

Features: 68% Best ones lost in freeware version
Ease of use: 62% Easy to follow instructions
Value: 60% It's a freebie, but crippled
Overall: 64% Does what it can well enough

DNTools



It may be good, it may be terrible, but we're determined to test DNTools one day!

I had a problem with DNTools right from the start. Although it comes very highly recommended, I was unable to use the program at all because I kept getting error messages every time I installed it, and every time I booted my PC after installation. I thought it might be my version of Windows 98 release 2 causing the problem, so I also attempted installation on a Windows 95 and a Windows NT4 PC with exactly the same results.

I don't want to give this software a bad review because I haven't actually been able to test it. The problem may be caused by a software conflict, although this seems unlikely to be the

case on three different PCs using three different versions of Windows.

I've contacted the maker of DNTools and I hope to have an update in a future issue. But if you're interested, give it a try.

Product:	DNTools
Web:	www.atmosoft.com/DNTools/index.html
Email:	bseeley@atmosoft.com
Price:	Shareware: \$12.95

SOFTSPOT SCOREBOARD

Features:	N/A	Unrated
Ease of use:	N/A	Unrated
Value:	N/A	Unrated
Overall:	N/A	Unrated

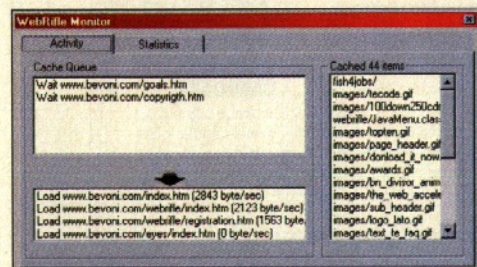
Web Rifle

WEB Rifle is another tool that 'intelligently' accelerates Internet Explorer 4 and 5 by pre-fetching pages from the Web. When Web Rifle is running, it follows the links from the page you are viewing and stores them in Internet Explorer's own cache folder. When you click on a link, the page loads almost instantly so your Web browsing is speeded up. Because Web Rifle downloads in the background, you don't realise that pages are being served to you. All you notice is a great speed increase.

Of course, you're not really browsing the Web any faster than you were before, just more efficiently. A series of reasonably simple settings can be modified so you only download the content you want. You can control whether text, images, sound files or Java applets are downloaded to the cache, and a full set of statistics are duly recorded every time you use the program.

You can keep track of how many kilobytes you download in a session, how long the download lasted, the maximum download speed and the average speed. You are also given the gain in performance as a percentage. In my case, I experienced an increase of around 30 per cent over my normal speeds.

Web Rifle is a very useful tool for those who use Internet Explorer 4 or 5 as their browser of choice. It definitely speeds up browsing and sits quietly in the system tray until it is needed.



Product:	Web Rifle
Web:	www.bevoni.com/web rifle/index.htm
Email:	WebRifle@bevoni.com
Price:	Freeware

SOFTSPOT SCOREBOARD

Features:	78%	TCP/IP optimiser speeds downloads
Ease of use:	82%	Very configurable
Value:	85%	It's free
Overall:	81%	A useful and efficient tool

Intelli-Dial-UP

NOT many people realise that almost all new PCs are preconfigured for the fastest LAN connection possible, rather than for modem connection. This means that when you set up and install your modem to connect to the Internet, you are probably not getting the best possible speed from your system. Connection speeds can be just a fifth of the capability of the modem if the settings of the MTU (Maximum Transfer Unit) and RWIN (Receive Window) settings are wrong.

And of course, there is no clear way within any version of Windows to quickly change these settings. That's where Intelli-Dial-UP comes in.

This handy little utility, which is completely free, does everything for you. It knows the perfect settings for each kind of connection, LAN or

modem/ISDN. When you run the program, select your connection type and wait a few seconds. You may be asked what kind of modem you are using. Intelli-Dial-UP then changes the settings for you automatically. All you have to do now is reboot your PC and get online.

I found a noticeable difference in connection speed, even though I usually connect using a dual ISDN connection. It certainly wasn't a five-fold increase, but my file download speeds are definitely faster than they used to be. Intelli-Dial-UP will certainly remain installed on my system.

Product:	Intelli-Dial-UP
Web:	www.skylam.com
Email:	webmaster@skylam.com
Price:	Freeware, full version

SOFTSPOT SCOREBOARD

Features:	85%	Everything to speed your connection
Ease of use:	82%	You just run it
Value:	89%	Another free utility
Overall:	88%	Simple and effective optimisation



Beginner: Explorer 5.01

OBJECTIVE

To use and understand the enhanced history and searching functions in Internet Explorer 5.01

Anything that makes searching the Internet a little easier is to be welcomed. **CLIVE PARKER** grapples with the enhanced search and history functions provided by Internet Explorer 5.01

Huh?!

THOSE TERMS EXPLAINED

Search engine

A search engine is a term for Web sites that let you search (obviously) for specific content on the Internet. Most search engines use automated systems to scan the Web and build up a database of Web pages.

Others, such as Yahoo!, have teams of people studying Web sites submitted for inclusion in its database who check whether they are suitable enough to be added. Even the most comprehensive search engines only list a fraction of the Web. That is why it is a pity you can't add extra engines to Internet Explorer's list.

History

The history function in Internet Explorer enables you to go back and look at pages you have visited at a later date. You may want to go back to a site to check up on some information, but you can't remember the URL.

Luckily you can simply click on the History icon in the toolbar to list all the sites you have recently visited. It's up to you how long you store pages in the history list, but 10 to 14 days should be enough time to cover most eventualities. You can also search the history pages for keywords, so you should always be able to find that elusive page.

Newsgroups

A part of the Net which allows users to post and reply to messages from other users. Broken into many different subjects (around 25,000 in total) newsgroup titles usually begin with a three or four letter prefix followed by alt., soc. misc. or rec.

MICROSOFT may be an all-conquering giant intent on world domination, but it does keep on improving its Web browser technology. The latest update to Internet Explorer adds a little more functionality to the browser (as well as fixing over 40 bugs in the code) including enhanced search and history functions.

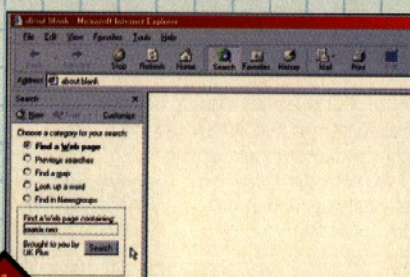
Internet Explorer 5 could already search the Web using built-in links to search engines, but now it can search for maps, look up the meaning of words in Encarta online and search through newsgroups. The only drawback is that there doesn't seem to be any way to add new search engines to the available list, but you still get

excellent results from searches.

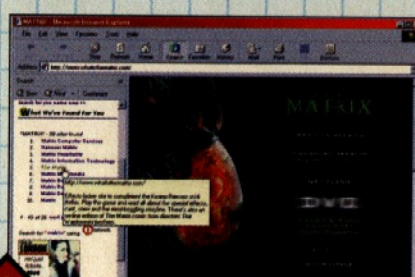
Explorer is now the leading browser in the market with about 70% of the installed browser base (and 88% of all browser are Shockwave Flash capable). This share will grow thanks to service providers opting for Explorer.

You can find Internet Explorer 5.01 free on our cover CD.

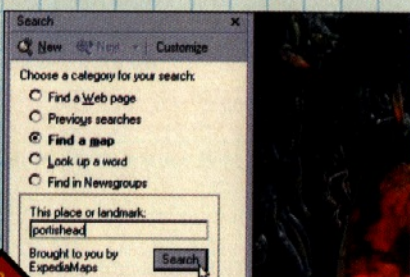
STEP 1: SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND



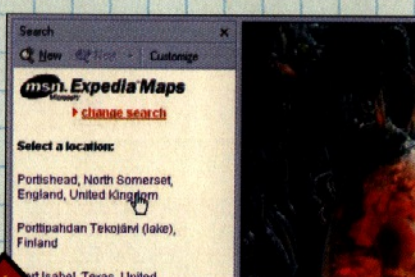
1 Get Internet Explorer 5.01 from our cover CD and connect to the Net. Click the 'Search' icon in the toolbar, so a new pane opens. Select 'Find a Web page', type in your search terms and click 'Search'.



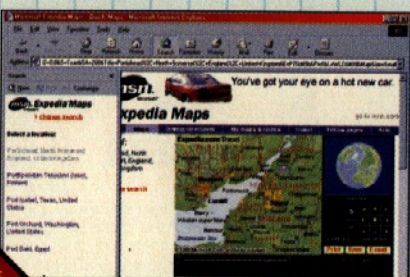
2 The search results are listed in the Search pane on the left of the Internet Explorer 5 window. Click on any of the results listed and Explorer will find the site and load it into the main pane on the right.



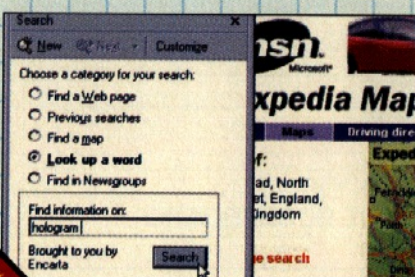
3 A map service is now available on the browser. Click on the 'Find a Map' option and type in the name of a town or village in the UK, and then click on the 'Search' button.



4 A selection of results is then displayed by the Expedia Maps service. You should find the exact match near the top of the list with near matches listed below. Click on the link to view the map.



5 Now the map downloads to the right pane of the Web browser. You can zoom in and out but there doesn't appear to be a street level option yet. Still, great for travelling around.

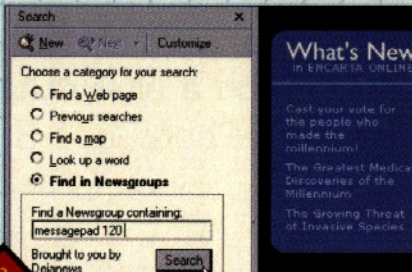


6 Another enhancement is the 'Look up a word' service. This links you into the Microsoft Encarta online encyclopaedia. Type in a word you want to look up and click on 'Search'.

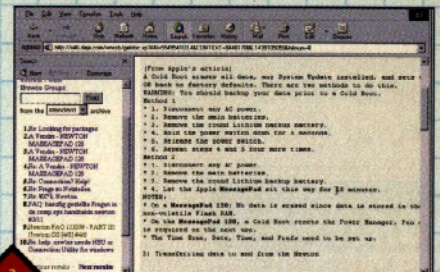
STEP 2: FIND ALL KINDS OF GOODIES ON THE INTERNET



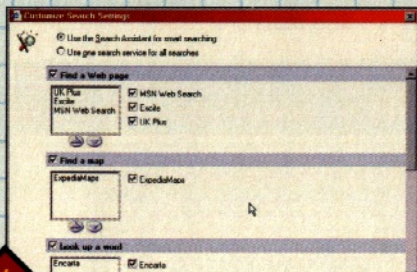
After a few seconds the Encarta Concise Encyclopaedia comes up with an answer. It's a shame the full Encarta is a subscription service; especially now the online version of Britannica is free.



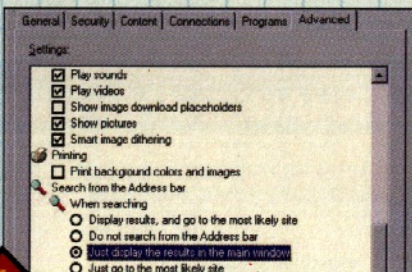
Finding stuff in newsgroups is one of the most, especially if you are new(ish) to the Net. Select the 'Find in Newsgroups' option, type in some search words and click on 'Search'.



A selection of newsgroup messages relating to your search words is displayed in the search pane. Click on any message to see the contents in Internet Explorer's main window.



If you want to modify the search tools used, click on the 'Customize' button in the search pane. In the Customize Search Settings dialog, you can choose which search tools to use in the list.

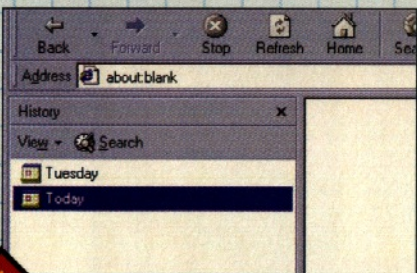


To search directly from the address bar, go to the Tools menu and select the 'Internet Options' command. Click the 'Advanced' tab and scroll down to Search from the Address Bar and select the option you want.

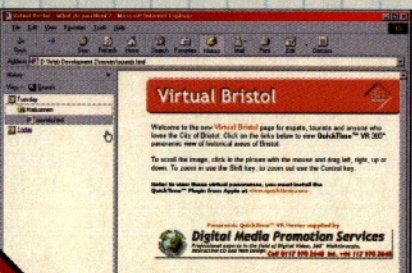


We've selected to display the results in the main window. Type your search terms in the address bar of Internet Explorer 5.01 and hit the return key. The results are displayed in the main window.

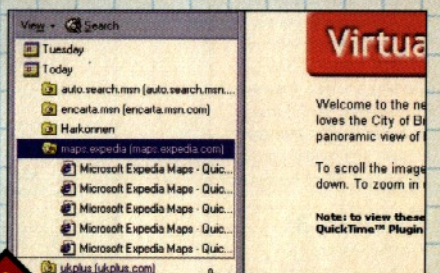
STEP 3: MASTERING THE HISTORIC FUNCTION



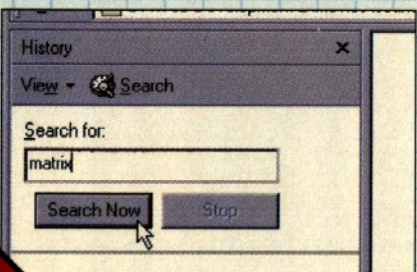
Click on the 'History' icon in the Internet Explorer 5 toolbar to open the history pane. The View command lets you view the history file by date, by site, by most visited or in the order you visited sites today.



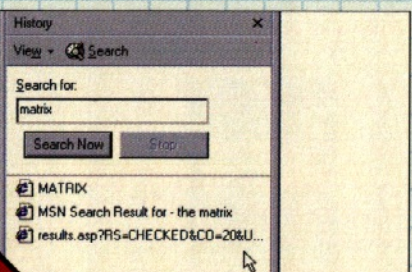
Clicking on the day listed in the history window opens up a list of folders representing sites you have visited. Click on a folder and the pages are displayed, click on a page and the page is opened.



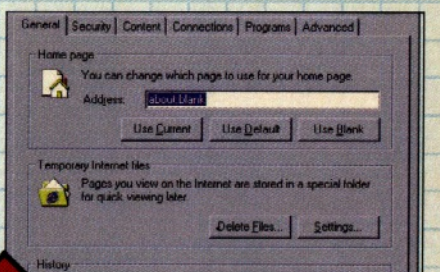
As you can see, every Web page you visit is stored in the history list. If you want to delete any item in the list, right-click on it and select the Delete command from the pop-up menu.



If you have a huge history list and you want to find a specific item, but you are not sure what day you visited or if the site names don't jog your memory, click on the 'Search' button and type in a word.



After a couple of seconds, the results of your search are displayed in the history pane. To view any of the items listed, just click on the link and it will be displayed in the main pane of Explorer.



To change the length of time history files are stored, go to the Tools menu and select 'Internet Options'. On the General page you can set the number of days to store pages in history or you can clear the file.

To make use of PhotoSuite's tools to enhance and alter pictures

Intermediate: PhotoSuite 3

It has to be said, images are a vital part of every Web site design, and when done well, they can enrich a site. **CLIVE PARKER** explains how to make them look great with PhotoSuite 3

Huh?!

THOSE TERMS EXPLAINED

Artistic effects

Artistic effects are used to make your images look more like a painting or a drawing than a photograph. You can take an ordinary image such as a picture of your house and modify it so it looks like a poster print, a cartoon-style drawing or a painting. You can use these effects on any kind of image, but they work best when used on a photograph. You do lose some detail, but you can adjust the settings of most of the effects to get the desired result.

Lens effects

The Lens effects should more properly be called filter effects. Six different Lens effects change the way your picture looks in the same way that coloured filters change the image when used on an SLR camera. You can add sepia tones, create an antique feel to the image or make it look like the picture was taken by moonlight. Very romantic.

Panoramas

Panoramas are easily created by joining a series of pictures together to make a single, larger image. PhotoSuite's stitching tool does this for you, and provides various blending options to let you quickly build up panoramic images from a series of ordinary-sized images.

TWAIN

Technology Without an Interesting Name. The de facto interface standard for scanners. Nearly all scanners come with a TWAIN driver, which makes them compatible with any TWAIN supporting software. Not all scanner software is TWAIN compatible.

LET'S face it, not all of us are great photographers. Most snaps are taken in unsuitable conditions. Professional photographers have the skill and equipment to modify images during the printing process. All we have is a wallet full of dodgy-looking prints from Boots.

But now you can use many of the photographers' tools using

PhotoSuite. If you scan your photos or use a digital camera, then you can modify your images simply and quickly.

You can add special effects, convert your photos into oil paintings or watercolours, distort images and compensate for under or over exposed images. You can even get rid of the dreaded redeye

with the click of a button. Because PhotoSuite is designed for people who are not image processing professionals, everything is easily laid out and simple to use.

You can buy PhotoSuite 3 (the Family edition is £20 and the Platinum edition is £30) at: <http://www.mgisoft.com/Products/MGIstore/>

STEP 1: ENHANCE AND TOUCHUP



1 After running PhotoSuite III, go to the File menu and use the Open command to load a scanned photograph into the program. Now click on the 'Touchup' button in the main toolbar.



2 When you switch to the Touchup section, a new series of command buttons appear on the left of the screen. This image is slightly over exposed because of the flash. Click on the 'Enhance' button.



3 PhotoSuite III examines the image and automatically corrects for over or under exposure. In this case, the image has been darkened slightly. This is a quick and easy process. Save when finished.



4 For this image, we're going to turn this daylight scene into a twilight scene mimicking the conditions just before dawn or just after sunset. Click on the 'Touchup Brushes' button in the toolbar on the left.



5 On the Touchup Brushes page, select 'Darken' in the touchup effect menu. Now select a largish brush size and set the Intensity setting to 50 per cent. Now use the large brush to completely paint over the image.



6 If you are not satisfied with the image, click on the 'Undo' icon or press Control + Z. Change the settings and paint again. When you are satisfied, click on the 'Return' button to go to the main menu.

STEP 2: USING SPECIAL EFFECTS



1 Load an image and click on the 'Special Effects' button. When the Special Effects page opens, select 'Artistic'. Click on the 'Cartoonize' effect and select 'Preview'. If you like the effect, click on 'Apply'.



2 Reload the original image to try out a different effect. Select 'Artistic' again and click on the 'Mirage' effect. A shimmering mirror effect is applied to the image.



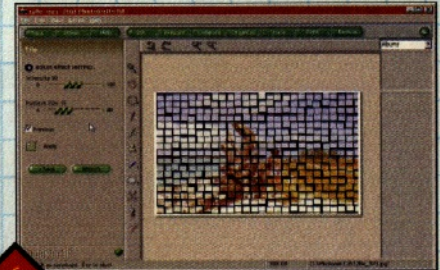
3 PhotoSuite can simulate different lens effects. Choose the 'Lens' category in the effects menu and then scroll down to the 'Moonlight' option. This gives your image a blue tint.



4 A good effect is to make your photo look like a painting. Using the Artistic category, select the 'Paintings' command. You can adjust the settings between watercolour and oil painting modes.

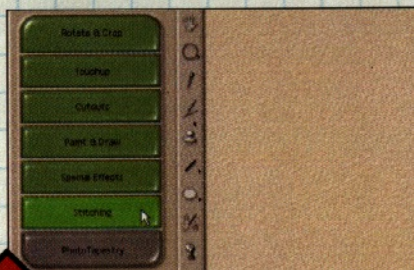


5 Another popular effect is to create a sepia tint to an image. Go to the 'Lens' category in Special Effects and then select the 'Sepia' command. This is a straight overlay effect and cannot be adjusted.

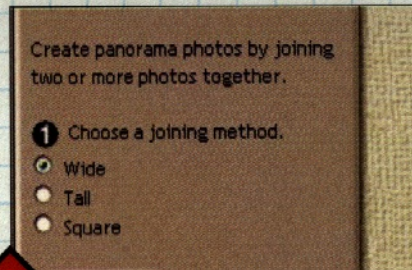


6 A great effect you can use is the 'Tile' effect in the Geometric special effects category. You can really play with this effect by adjusting the Intensity and the size of the tiles used.

STEP 3: CREATING PANORAMAS



1 To create panoramas where you link images together, go to the main page of PhotoSuite and close any pictures that may be loaded. Now go to the Stitching command in the main toolbar.

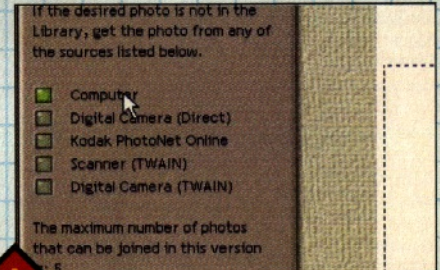


Create panorama photos by joining two or more photos together.

1 Choose a joining method.

- ☒ Wide
- ☐ Tall
- ☐ Square

2 You have to decide whether you want to create a vertical, horizontal or square image. Choose the 'Wide' option for your first attempt, and then click on the 'Next' button to go to the next screen.

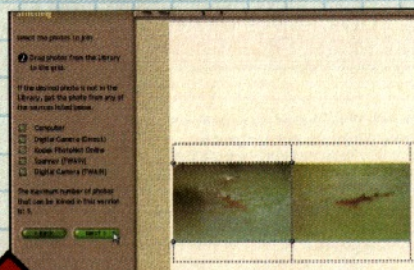


If the desired photo is not in the Library, get the photo from any of the sources listed below.

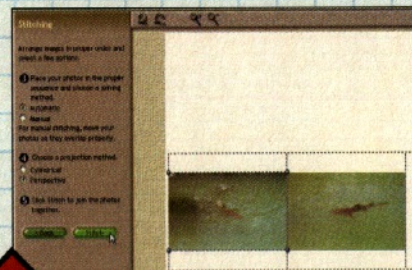
- ☒ Computer
- ☐ Digital Camera (Direct)
- ☐ Kodak PhotoNet Online
- ☐ Scanner (TWAIN)
- ☐ Digital Camera (TWAIN)

The maximum number of photos that can be joined in this version is 5.

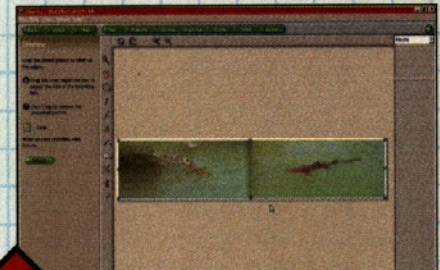
3 Now you have to choose the source of your image. PhotoSuite lets you load images from your hard drive, from Kodak's PhotoNet Online service, direct from digital cameras or by TWAIN acquire.



4 After loading the images, you can rearrange them by dragging them from one area to another. You can join up to five images together using the Stitching commands. Click 'Next' to continue.



5 Once you have decided on the order of the images select the 'Automatic' option as the joining method. You must also choose a projection method. Click on the 'Stitch' button when ready.



6 PhotoSuite now merges the two images together into a single image. The edges of the images will not match up exactly, so you can use the Crop tool to create a nice, regular-shaped image.

OBJECTIVE

To use Web Magnet to search the Web for images and other files and download them

Intermediate: Web Magnet

Finding things on the Web can be hard, especially if you are not used to using search engines. **CLIVE PARKER** sits back and lets Web Magnet do all the dirty work

Huh?!

THOSE TERMS EXPLAINED

Search Engines

Web Magnet uses the databases created by the major Internet search engines such as Yahoo! and AltaVista to perform its searches. This function is customisable so you can specify whatever search engine you like as your main search tool. You can select as many or as few search engines as required, but remember that the more search engines you select, the longer your search will take.

File Types

Web Magnet comes prepared to download a host of file types. You may find it odd that although image types such as TIFF, and PNG are supported, GIF files are not included in the File Types list and Web Magnet doesn't even display GIF images. It does seem strange until you realise that Web Magnet is designed to find photographic images on the Web rather than icons, buttons, banners and so on. Ninety-nine per cent of photographic images on the Web are in JPEG format; almost none are in GIF format because it only supports 256 colours. You can specify GIF if you want, but you will end up with hundreds of navigation images and very few photos.

JPEG

JPEG is a graphics file format that's designed for compressing either full-color or gray-scale images of natural, real-world scenes. It works well on photos, naturalistic artwork, and similar material; not so well on lettering, simple cartoons, or line drawings.

YOU'VE decided to build a top-notch Matrix Web site as a tribute to the sheer artistry and magnificence of the film, but you're having trouble finding images to illustrate your pages. What do you do?

You pinch them from the Internet using a fantastic tool called Web Magnet, that's what.

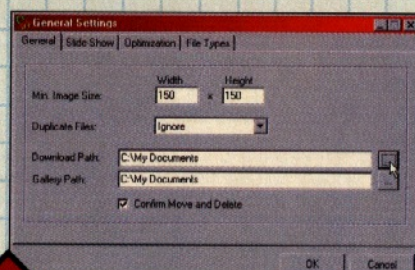
Web Magnet is designed to connect to a search engine and uses its database to find the images you are looking for. It then downloads them to your hard drive while you make a cup of tea and have a couple of digestive biscuits while you wait.

It works very well. In our initial test search for Matrix images, I

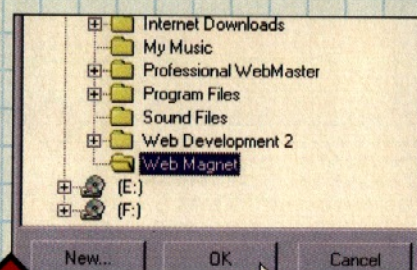
simply entered the search terms NEO and MATRIX, connected to the Net and wandered off. After about 20 minutes Web Magnet had downloaded over 300 images from the film and was still hunting for more. Dead impressive!

You can get a copy of Web Magnet by calling Databecker on 01420 22707.

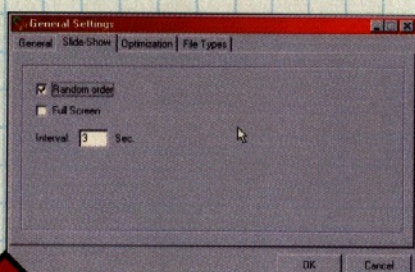
STEP 1: BASIC WEB MAGNET SETTINGS



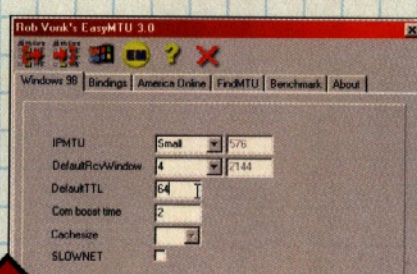
1 After loading, the General Settings dialog opens. This is where you decide what size files you will download and where you store them. Choose a minimum image size in pixels and select a directory.



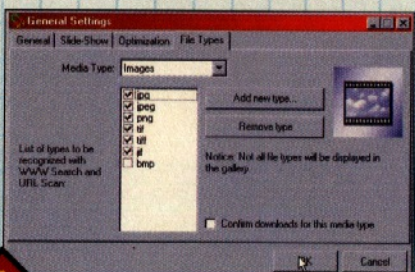
2 Click on the browse buttons to select a directory, and this dialog appears. Choose a folder on your hard drive or create a new one by clicking 'New'. Click 'OK' to return to the General Settings dialog.



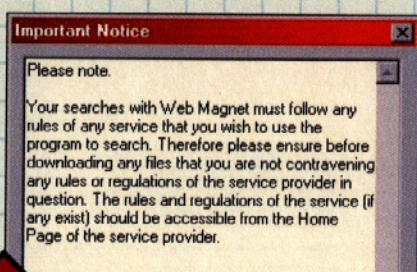
3 Click the 'Slide Show' tab to go to the next settings dialog. Here you can select if the images are shown randomly, if they are displayed full screen and how long they are displayed during the slide show.



4 The Optimization settings tab restricts the time you spend online. Select the 'Ignore slow sites' checkbox and adjust the slider to a setting between 'Immediate' and '30 sec' so you don't search slow Web sites.

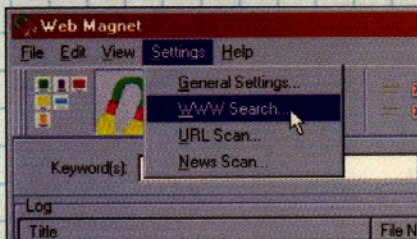


5 The File Types menu is where you select the format of the files you search for. It's probably best to restrict the search to JPEG files in the images section to speed things up.

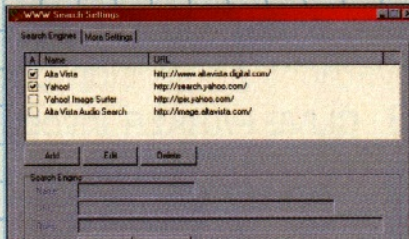


6 When you exit from the settings, an 'Important Notice' appears. It is essentially a warning about copyright theft. Click on the 'Don't show this notice again check box' and press 'OK'.

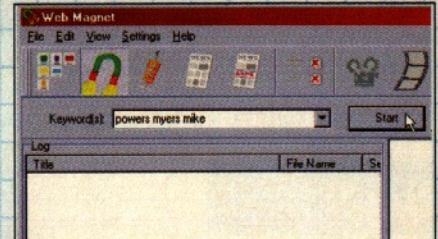
STEP 2: SEARCHING THE ENTIRE WEB FOR CONTENT



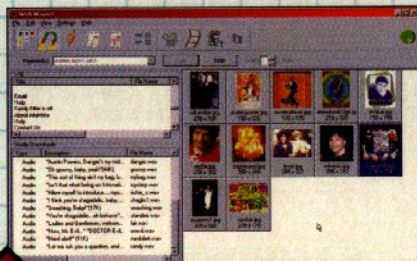
Time to make your first search; you're going to search the entire Web for some images. Go to the Settings menu and select the 'WWW Search...' command to start the Web Magnet search process.



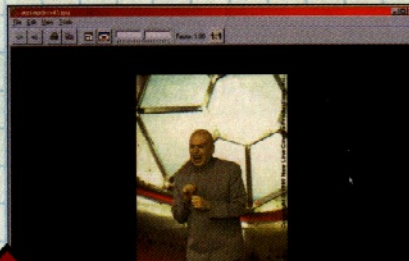
This is where you specify the search engines that Web Magnet uses to find content on the Web. If you want to add a search engine, click on 'Add' and enter the details. Click on 'OK' when finished.



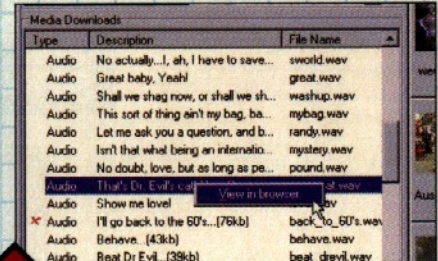
Back at the main Web Magnet screen you can see that the magnet icon is selected, this denotes a Web search. In the Keyword(s): text box, type in some words relating to what you want to search for.



Web Magnet now uses the chosen search engines to find images (and in this case wav. format sound files) relating to your search terms. The images found are downloaded and thumbnails displayed.

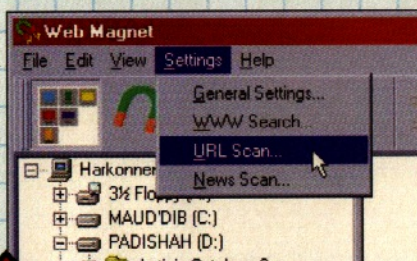


If you want a closer look, double-click its thumbnail and Web Magnet's built-in image viewer will display the image full size for you. You can use the forward and back buttons to scroll through the images.

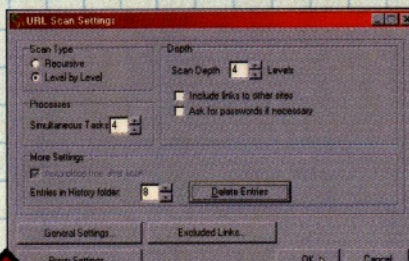


The bottom left pane of the window displays the other media files found. To view the original Web page a file came from, right-click on the file and click on the 'View in browser' command.

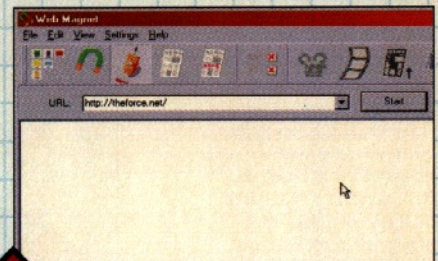
STEP 3: GRABBING FROM A SPECIFIC WEB SITE



To go to a specific Web site and grab all of the images stored there, start by going to the Settings menu and then selecting the 'URL Scan...' command.



When the URL Scan Settings dialog appears, uncheck the 'Include links to other sites' option so the scan doesn't take too long. You can leave the other options at their default settings. Click 'OK' to exit.



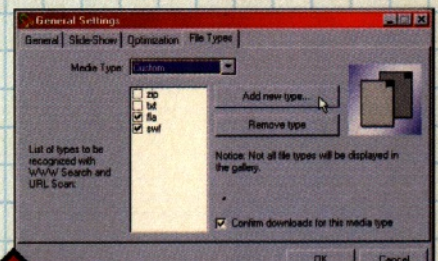
On the main window, you can see that the URL icon is selected. Type in the URL of the site you want to get images from in the 'URL:' text window and then click on the 'Start' button.



After a short time, images will start to appear in the lower pane of the Web Magnet screen. You can view these images in the same way as the thumbnails in the WWW scan windows.



If you want to view all the files you have downloaded, disconnect from the Internet and click on the 'Slide Show' icon. The icon is shaped like a movie projector.



If you want to search for file types not listed in Web Magnet, go to Settings and select 'General Settings'. Click on the 'File Type's icon and select 'Custom', 'Add new type...' and add the file suffix.

To explore and understand all of the new features of Macromedia's Dreamweaver 3

Advanced: Dreamweaver 3

It doesn't seem that long ago since Macromedia introduced Dreamweaver 2, an improvement on version one. It's done it again with Dreamweaver 3. **CLIVE PARKER** investigates

Huh?!

THOSE TERMS EXPLAINED

History

It seems Macromedia has listened to what its customers want, and has added the History palette to Dreamweaver 3. The History palette keeps a list of every action you make on a page, which in effect provides an unlimited undo function. Not only that, but you can also highlight any action or group of actions in the History palette and simply repeat them. This means you don't have to cut and paste from one area to another. Another great innovation in Dreamweaver 3 is the ability to create custom commands.

Custom commands

You can create your own customised commands in Dreamweaver 3 and add them to the Commands menu. This is very handy. For example, you may open a blank Web page and create some content. After doing this, go to the History palette and highlight the actions you have taken and right-click on them. In a pop-up menu, select the Save As Command to create a new entry in the main Commands menu. The next time you want to duplicate the code, just click on the new command in the menu. Very simple.

HTML Behaviours

Because Cascading Style Sheets have not been uniformly supported in the two main browsers, Macromedia has introduced HTML Styles. This enables you to style up a page using standard HTML tags with the assurance that it will work in all browsers.

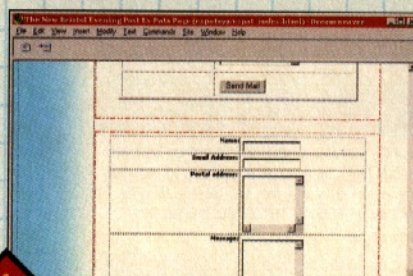
IT'S amazing. Dreamweaver 2 was such an improvement over the first two versions that Macromedia released, it seemed an impossible task to attempt to improve the program any further. Yet here's Dreamweaver 3, with a leap in functionality over Dreamweaver 2 that's as big as the leap DW2 made over DW1.2.

So what has Macromedia done to the world's favourite HTML editor? Superficially it looks the same, with the familiar editing window, site display, objects and properties tools. But beneath the surface there are a lot of changes and improvements. One of the biggest enhancements is the addition of a History window. This

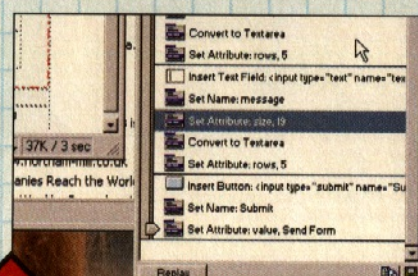
window keeps track of every change you make in an HTML document. If you delete sections of the page accidentally, you can scroll back up the history list to a point before the mistake.

You can download a 30 day trial of Dreamweaver 3 from its site at: www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/trial/

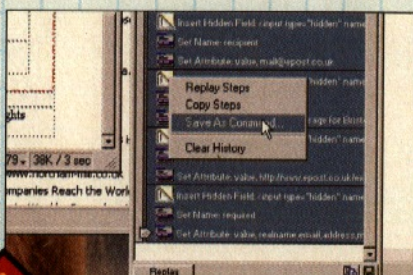
STEP 1: DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY



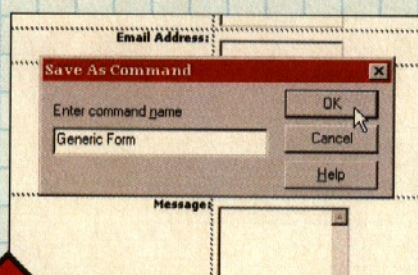
1 First of all, create some new content for your page in the normal way. In the example here, we're building an email response form for a newspaper Web site.



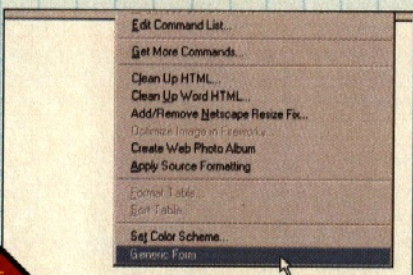
2 In the History palette window you can see each action used to create content on the Web page. You can scroll up and down the list. If you slide the pointer on the left up the list, each action is undone.



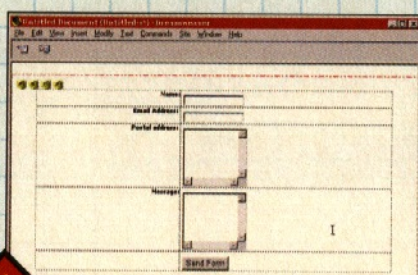
3 Once you have completed the content you are creating, highlight the complete history list from first command to last. Now right-click on the list and select the 'Save As Command...' command.



4 When the Save As Command dialog box opens up, enter a command name that has a meaning you will readily understand when you come back to Dreamweaver at a later date.

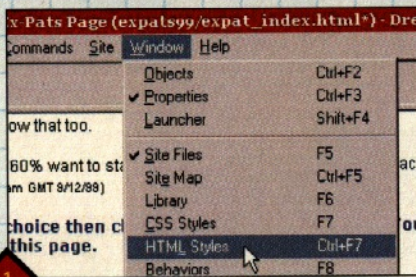


5 Create a new Web page using the 'New' command in the File menu. Now go to the Commands menu and select it. The new command you have created is at the bottom of the list.

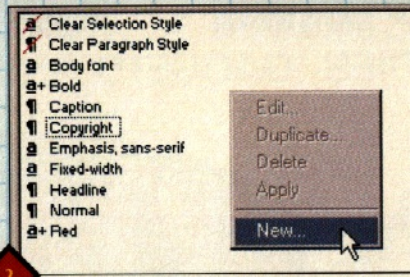


6 After you have selected the new command, you'll see that your original work is now recreated down to the very last detail in your new Web page. See, we told you it would make life easier!

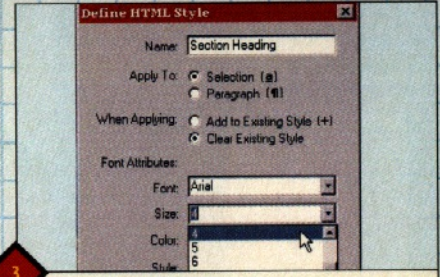
STEP 2: PUTTING ON THE (HTML) STYLE



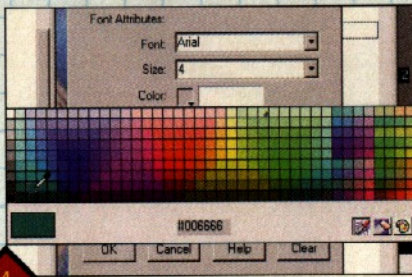
One of the new features is HTML styles. You can use HTML styles to apply standard HTML styling to paragraphs or to selected areas of a page. Go to the Windows menu and select 'HTML Styles'.



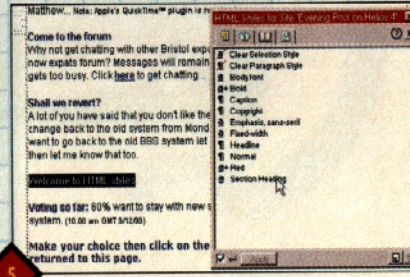
There are some predefined HTML styles in the palette. To create our own, right-click in the window and select 'New...' from the pop-up window or click on the small icon at the bottom-right of the window.



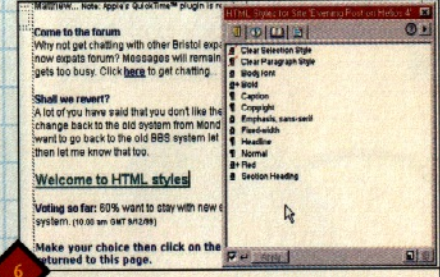
In the Define HTML Style dialog, type in a name for your style and choose the Selection radio button. Also select 'Clear Existing Style'. Now choose the font you want to use and the size. Click 'OK' to save.



You can also choose the font colour, select whether it's bold, underlined, italic and so on. It's up to you to choose the style parameters to fit in with your Web site.

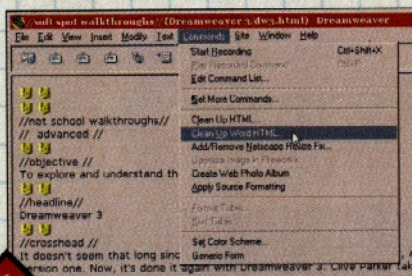


In the Web page, highlight all of the text that you want to add the style to. Now go to the HTML Styles window and click on the new style that you have just defined.

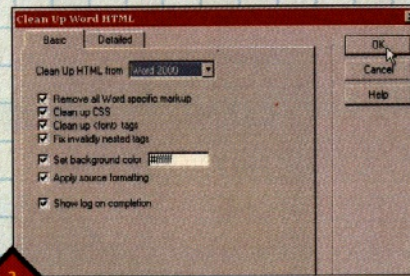


The style you have created is now instantly applied to the selected area of text. You can gradually build up a complete library of styles for each Web site that you build.

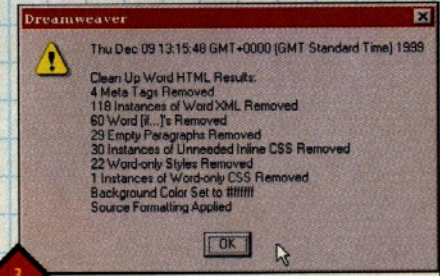
STEP 3: MORE USEFUL FEATURES



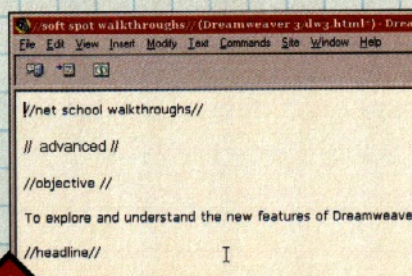
Most Web page designers know what a mess programs like Microsoft Word makes of HTML code when you use the 'save as Web page' option. Dreamweaver comes with a new Clean Up Word HTML... command.



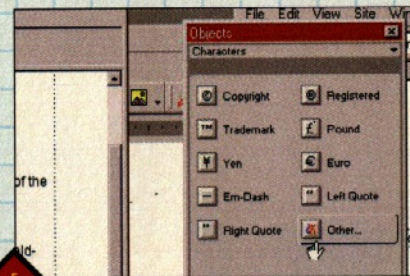
Once you have selected the command from the menu, you have a choice of what Word version the page was created in, and you can pick which elements of non-standard HTML you want to remove.



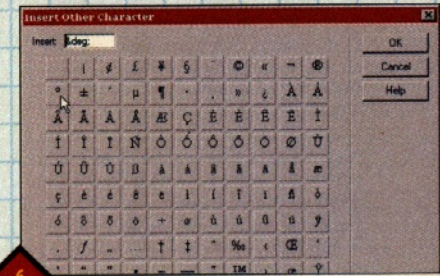
After clicking on the OK button to start the clean up process, there is a short pause (depending on the size of the file) while the rubbish is stripped out. An alert box informs you what has been removed.



Now your Web page has the entire gash Microsoft code removed and you can modify the rest manually. This process also works on Web pages created with Microsoft FrontPage, too.



The Objects palette includes a section called Characters. You can now add those strange characters at the click of a mouse. The common ones are in the main window, but if you want more, click 'Other...'.



A table of 99 different special characters pops up. All you have to do is select the character you want and click on the 'OK' button. No more searching for ASCII codes in HTML manuals for us.

Hardware

THE LATEST GOODIES, GADGETS AND GIZMOS



Mice one!

THIS space-saving MousePhone is said to be the world's first integrated – wait for it – mouse and phone. Fortunately, you don't have to risk ridicule by placing it to your ear to hold a conversation. Simply dial the number using the keypad on the mouse and natter using the supplied headset. Apart from saving you the strain of cradling the phone against your neck, the phone is also ergonomically designed to prevent wrist strain. This ringing rodent is one of those rare PC peripherals that makes you go 'wow'. The only downside is the headphone lead found at the back of the mouse, which gets on your nerves after, oh, about all of 30 seconds.

PRODUCT: MOUSEPHONE

PRICE: £39.99 (incl. VAT)

CONTACT: www.ffront.com

Teac it out

IF you're an online gaming or MP3 fan, it's important your computer has a decent sound system. There are plenty on offer but if you've got a bit of spare cash swilling around, Teac's PowerMax2000 sound system is worth a look. This attractive multimedia set-up comprises a central speaker, a sub woofer and four smaller satellite speakers, which makes for a true surround sound experience. And if it's power you're looking for, the 2000 Watts of output should satisfy you.

PRODUCT: POWERMAX2000

PRICE: £219 (excl. VAT)

CONTACT: www.teac.co.uk



Red alert

WHAT'S small, rounded and feels good in your hand? Surprisingly, the answer isn't rude but is in fact the Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer. Throw out those crummy free mouse mats, because this rodent doesn't need one. Microsoft has replaced the gunk-prone rubber track ball with an optical sensor that scans your desktop 1,500 times per second. The so-called 'IntelliEye' accurately reflects even the smallest movement, giving you control like you've never had before. To aid speed surfing, Microsoft has also added forward and back buttons. And there's even a handy scroll wheel that lets you race through those monotonous HTML documents. An expensive pet, though.

PRODUCT: INTELLIMOUSE EXPLORER

PRICE: £49

CONTACT: www.microsoft.com/uk



red

Quick silver

IF you saw our great feature on burning an MP3 CD in issue 36, you'll probably be raring to get your hands on a writer of your own. The Sony CRX120Eu-RP is a USB device that plugs into just about any new computer on the market today. With four speed write and rewrite capability, burning a one hour music disc won't take forever. But then again, with its sexy silvery design, you may want to just drool over it.

PRODUCT: CRX120EU-RP

PRICE: TBA

CONTACT: www.sony-cp.com



Tasty spread

DIGITAL cameras can cost an arm and a leg. Fortunately, KB Gear Interactive has bucked the trend with a fun little snapper for less than £100. Decked out in cheap and cheerful colours, the durable JamC@m is designed to be used in any location. With a resolution of 640 x 480 VGA, the picture quality obviously isn't going to be brilliant. But for people looking to brighten up their Web site with a few pics, it should be just the ticket. The JamC@m can store up to 24 still images and comes with USB and serial connection. Compatible with both Mac and PC, the camera comes bundled with photo editing software. Good stuff.

PRODUCT: JAMC@m

PRICE: £89.95

CONTACT: www.pow-dist.co.uk



Splash out

YOU'RE getting stuck into some serious surfing and email activity. In one hand sits the mouse. In the other sits a mug of coffee. All of a sudden, the phone rings and the coffee goes everywhere. Apart from prompting numerous profanities, this also ruins your keyboard. Fortunately, Memorex has come up with the spill-proof TS1098. It's specially designed so the liquid can't get onto the contacts – a common cause of keyboard failure.

PRODUCT: TS1098

PRICE: £12.99

CONTACT: www.memorex.co.uk



Take 5

Boasting superb audio quality and a tiny size, are MP3 players the personal stereos of the future? **MARTIN PIPE** puts five of the best Net friendly audio devices through their paces

ALTHOUGH it's nothing more than audio compression technology, the

excitement surrounding MP3 stems from its efficiency. Let's take, as an example, a CD-quality pop song that lasts three minutes. Regardless of whether it's on your hard disk, or on a CD bought at your local record shop, that song will occupy over 30Mb of space. If it's compressed using an MP3 encoder, the same song will be smaller than 3Mb. What's more, it will retain most of the sound quality. MP3 works by discarding any information that the human ear cannot perceive.

Copyright concerns

Thousands upon thousands of dodgy Web and FTP sites have sprung up, containing MP3 copies of songs, and often complete albums. Computer-fair traders are offering homespun CD-ROMs containing hundreds of MP3 tracks sourced from CDs. All of this, of course, constitutes a major copyright violation – and the record companies shut down these operations when they find them. Other record companies sense MP3 as an opportunity. Soon, you'll be able to buy MP3 tracks online. Other sites offer unsigned musicians the opportunity to make themselves heard. Some established artists have legitimately released songs on the Internet as MP3 files.

Until fairly recently, the only way you could hear MP3 files was through a computer running WinAmp or similar software. Hardly convenient, in other words. Last year, the Korean company, Saehan, changed all that. Its product, the MPMan, is effectively a MP3 personal stereo. MP3 tracks are transferred from your hard disk to the device via a parallel port. The MPMan, which is included in this round-up, has 32Mb of memory. Choose the compression rate carefully, and you'll be able to fit in an hour's worth of songs. Disconnect the device from the computer, plug in a pair of headphones and you've got music on the go. Because there are no moving parts, there's no risk of skipping. In addition, the device is supplied with software that allows you to create MP3 files from your own CDs.

Disadvantages? Only the obvious – you're stuck with whatever music's in the player until you take it to your PC for a 'recharge'. That's true of every current MP3 player, although you can expand the memory.

Diamond

Rio 500

ALTHOUGH it's the most expensive player of the group, the Rio 500 is easily the most elegant – and it's also the most powerful. For a start, you get 64Mb of memory as standard which means a lot more music for you to enjoy. But if that doesn't satisfy you, the memory can be expanded to a whopping 96Mb with an optional SmartMedia card. So you can fill it up with loads of songs.

Secondly, the backlit display tells you the name of the track you're listening to. The overall effect isn't dissimilar to that provided by the 'CD-Text' facility of recent CD players. Most importantly, though, the Rio 500 interfaces with your computer via a USB port. This feature means that it is considerably faster than the parallel (printer) port employed by the other four units tested here. If you fancy a change of music before you catch the train or go for your morning jog, you won't have to wait long for the files to download. Another advantage is that owners of recent Macs can now get in on the personal MP3 act – Diamond supplies you with all the relevant driver software.

Also provided in the package is a device called RioPort, which provides a gateway to various MP3 Internet sites. The program will also convert CD tracks into MP3 files.

It's not all good news, though. The supplied earphones are awful – a comment that, sadly, applies to all of the other players submitted for review too. This is a great shame, because the player's potential sound quality

vastly exceeds the sonic capabilities of the bundled headset. Invest, say, £30 in decent 'cans' and you'll get a lot more enjoyment.

Our biggest gripe is reserved for price. The same money will buy you a portable MiniDisc deck with recording capability. If your computer's soundcard has an optical digital output, then you'll be able to record MP3s onto MiniDiscs with no obvious loss in sound quality. Note, however, that the price of USB-connected MP3 players will drop in time.

Contact:	Diamond
Web:	www.diamondmm.co.uk
Phone:	01189 444400
Price	£229

HARDWIRED SCOREBOARD

Features:	95%	Wish-list stuff
Ease of use:	95%	Excellent user interface
Value:	70%	Seems rather expensive
Overall:	90%	Expensive, but desirable





LG

MF-PD330

THIS player is the only one of the group to feature a remote control unit. This device allows you to easily select tracks on the move. There's no internal memory, but you do get two slots for 'MMC' flash memory cards. It's a shame that LG hasn't opted for the universally-available SmartMedia. The player is supplied with two 16Mb cards. Cards of higher capacity are available. Unfortunately, the software is rather basic and only deals with the transfer of MP3 files from (or, unusually, to) the PC via a supplied printer-port cable. If you want to download your own CD tracks on the player, you'll need a CD 'ripper' and MP3 compression software.

Contact:	LG
Web:	www.lge.co.kr
Phone:	0181 202 1919
Price:	£130

HARDWIRED SCOREBOARD

Features:	85%	Odd memory cards
Ease of use:	95%	Remote is a boon
Value:	85%	A bit plasticky, though
Overall:	85%	It's got clubber appeal

Philex

MPress3

PAY attention, 007! The MPress3 doubles up as a cunning espionage tool. The tiny device (which also has reporter appeal – hence the name) can be set to record from a built-in microphone. MP3s are downloaded from your PC fairly quickly, via a standard parallel-port connection. It's also possible to upload the voice recordings back to your PC. Voice recordings and MP3 tracks can be stored simultaneously in memory. On which subject, you get 32Mb built-in, plus a slot for SmartMedia cards.

Contact:	Philex
Web:	www.philex.com
Phone:	0181 202 1919
Price:	£150

HARDWIRED SCOREBOARD

Features:	85%	Adjustable recording
Ease of use:	90%	Not much to it
Value:	80%	There's better out there
Overall:	85%	It has its appeal



Saehan

MP-F20

HERE it is. The player that started them all. Yet the MP-F20 'MPMan' still holds its own, and is sensibly priced. One of its best features is that its 32Mb memory (expandable to 64Mb with SmartMedia cards) can contain data other than MP3 files. The accompanying software allows you to upload or download this data to or from your PC. A neat trick for digital camera owners, or those who need to transport data from one PC to another. Other players can do this, but generally only with third-party software. MP3 features are basic – bass boost, CD-like track-select functions and so on – and sound quality is par for the course. Transfer across the printer port is rather slow, but no slower than others.

Contact:	Gateway to Europe
Web:	www.mp-man.co.uk
Phone:	01234 344206
Price:	£100

HARDWIRED SCOREBOARD

Features:	70%	Showing its age
Ease of use:	90%	Simplicity pays off...
Value:	90%	Can't be knocked
Overall:	85%	Excellent value

Pine

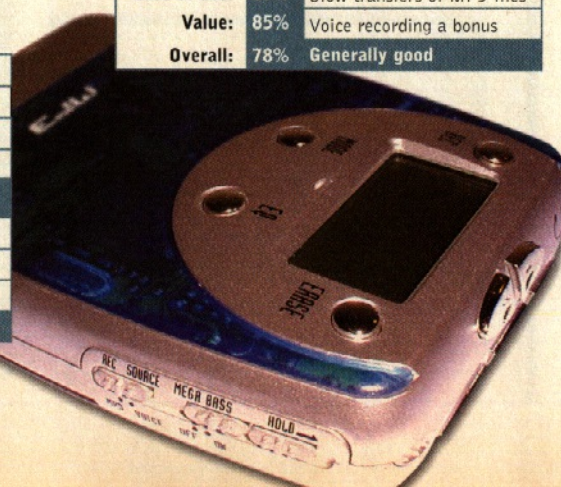
D-Music

THIS ruggedly-encased unit, which superficially resembles Diamond's original Rio PMP300 player, is perhaps more like the Philex since a voice recorder and microphone are built-in. Unlike the LG, though, there's no provision for an external input. Voice recording, unlike MP3 playback, is rather low-fi. Nevertheless, the ability to store over two hours of speech within the supplied 32Mb memory (expandable with SmartMedia) cards could be useful to some individuals. Something that will appeal to everyone is the D-Music's alphanumeric display of MP3 song title. Note that transfer of MP3 files is painfully slow.

Contact:	Pine
Web:	www.pine-dmusic.com
Phone:	(01908) 218812
Price:	£129

HARDWIRED SCOREBOARD

Features:	85%	Good display
Ease of use:	65%	Slow transfers of MP3 files
Value:	85%	Voice recording a bonus
Overall:	78%	Generally good



MP3 RESOURCES

www.mpeg3.com

Songs, software and information

www.free-mp3-files.com

As the name suggests...

www.vitaminic.co.uk

British MP3 music site

www.iis.fhg.de

Home page of Fraunhofer Institute, originator of the MP3 format

www.mpegx.com/utilities.html

Links to various MP3 utilities

www.winamp.com

Don't have a copy of this free MP3 player? Get it from here...

www.sonique.com

Another MP3 player for Windows

www.sennheiser.com

Get some decent headphones from here

Huh?!

THAT MP3 JARGON EXPLAINED

MP3

MP3 is short for MPEG 1 Layer 3, the most common format for downloadable audio. MP3s allow for near CD-quality sound at a tenth of the file size of the conventional format for PC sound files (WAV). An audio sample at CD Quality (44KHz, 16 bit, Stereo) takes up 172 bytes for every second with a standard Wave audio file.

Bitrate

The term bitrate is applied to the number of data bits 'streamed' per second.

128kbps

128 kilobits per second – the most common Internet MP3 bitrate. 96kbps is a better bet for portable players, where memory is at a premium.

Compression

The art of file size reduction. MP3 uses 'lossy' compression, meaning that some information is irretrievably lost.

SmartMedia

SmartMedia refers to a removable flash memory card, which is currently very popular on many digital cameras and MP3 players.

Ripping

Ripping is the opposite of burning CDs. It's when you turn CD tracks into PC files. The best programs, such as Audio Catalyst (www.audio-catalyst.com) will do this process digitally, so you won't suffer from any deterioration.



"Our patients thrive with Doctor Clive"

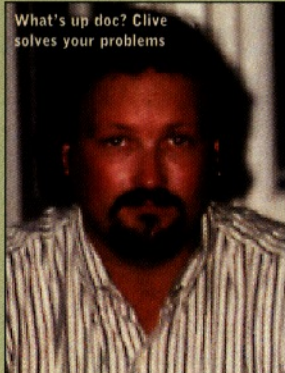
AUTO-ANNOYING

Q I know that the AutoComplete function in Internet Explorer 5 is supposed to be a great boon to the human race and so on, but I find it intensely irritating. How the hell do I turn it off?

Matthew Heard

A Don't worry, Matthew. It is very easy to disable the AutoComplete function, so you will be annoyed no more. Go to Internet Options in the Tools menu of Internet Explorer 5 and select the 'Content' tab. Click on the 'AutoComplete' button and then deselect the 'Use AutoComplete for' section. Click on 'OK' to close the dialog, then click on 'OK' again to save the settings. Now you live in a world free from AutoComplete functions. Hooray!

What's up doc? Clive solves your problems



Send your questions by email to helpdesk@paragon.co.uk or fill out the Web-based form at <http://portishead.net/helpdesk.html>.

Clive Parker's NET SURG

Thanks to his expert advice, **CLIVE PARKER** will ease and erase your trickiest of Internet problems

Q Lack of power

I hope you can help me with my problem. I have PowerPoint installed on my PC and I have no trouble creating a presentation and then opening it again later. But when my brother emailed me some of his presentations as examples – and although they seemed to copy over okay – when I try to open them I always get the same error message:

C:\...\name of file.PPT" "Sorry, this type of file cannot be opened by PowerPoint"

My bother swears blind that the presentations

were created on the same version of PowerPoint from Microsoft Office. Neither of us knows what to do now.

Rosemary Hartnell

A Sometimes files sent between computers as email attachments can get corrupted in some way, or the file gets saved in a way that Windows cannot recognise. This usually happens if the file is being sent from a Macintosh to a PC, from a PC to a Macintosh or sent using one email program and received using a different application. The easiest way around this is to use a file compression system such as WinZip and get your brother to

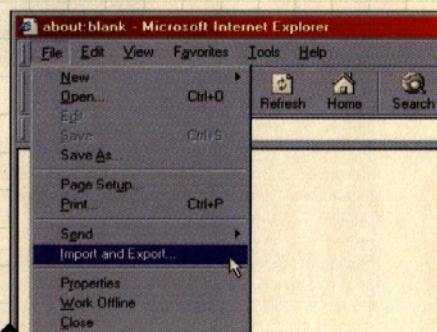
MOVING BOOKMARKS

Q I wondered whether you could tell me how I can move my Netscape Bookmarks over to Internet Explorer 5? I use both browsers and I want to synchronise the Bookmarks and Favorites to save time online.

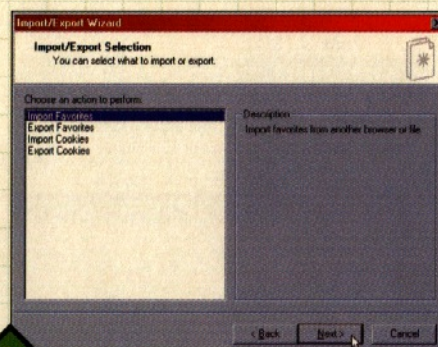
Gareth Jones

A Don't worry Gareth, it's pretty easy to import

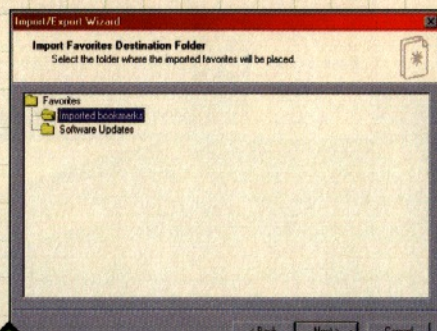
your Netscape Bookmarks into Internet Explorer 5, so you'll have them synchronised in no time. Microsoft, in an unusual fit of common sense, has included an import and export tool into IE5 which makes the whole process quick and very easy to do. Just follow the steps below.



1 Open Internet Explorer 5 and go to the File menu, then select the 'Import and Export' command.



2 Skip over the welcome screen by clicking 'Next'. In the Import/Export Selection page, select 'Import Favorites' and then click on the 'Next' button to get to the next stage.



4 The next screen enables you to choose where you store the bookmarks. Once you have chosen a folder, you have to click 'Next'.

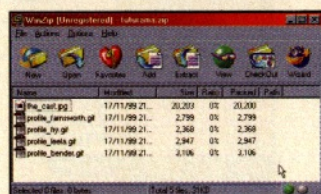


5 Now you are ready to import the Netscape bookmarks. Click on 'Finish' and wait a few moments until an alert box lets you know that the import has been successful.

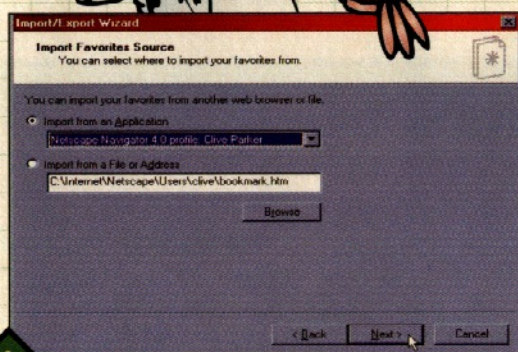
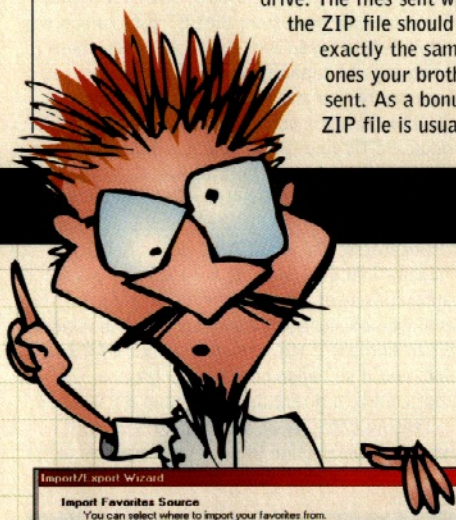
ERY

send you the PowerPoint files with a ZIP file. ZIP files are pretty robust, and WinZip can usually manage to open them even if they have been sent between two differing systems.

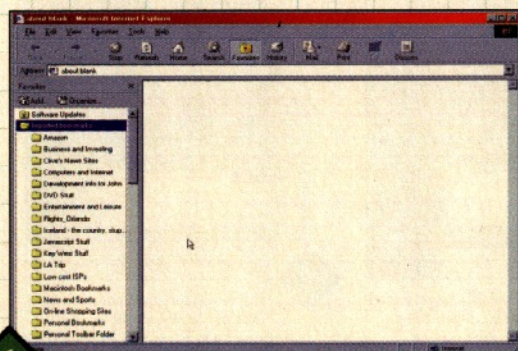
All you have to do is open the ZIP file your brother sends you in WinZip and then save the PowerPoint presentations to your hard drive. The files sent within the ZIP file should be exactly the same as ones your brother sent. As a bonus, the ZIP file is usually a



WinZip preserves the integrity of the files it compresses



On this page you choose the location of the browser you want to import from. Your Netscape browser should already be selected. If not, select 'Import from a File or Address' then click the 'Browse' button to locate your Netscape bookmarks. Click 'Next'.



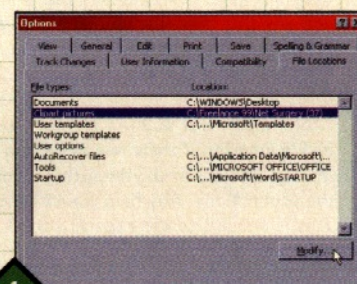
Now when you click on the Favorites icon in Internet Explorer, you'll find that all of your Netscape bookmarks are neatly listed in a row.

LOST THE PATH

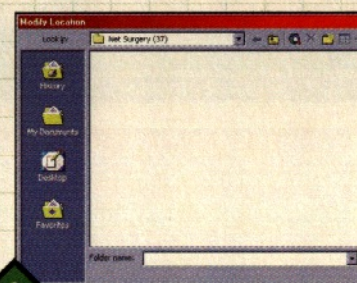
I know this isn't strictly a Net problem, but I hope that you can help me all the same. When I'm using MS Word 2000 I get frustrated when I am trying to import pictures into my documents, as things just don't work how they should. I know you can set the path to image files using the Options command, but this means I have to change the settings every time I use the program. I'm absolutely positive that my old version of Word 97 used to revert to the last folder used in the previous session which, to me, makes sense. It means you don't have to keep changing the settings. Is there any ways to emulate this feature in Word 2000?

Colin Hollister

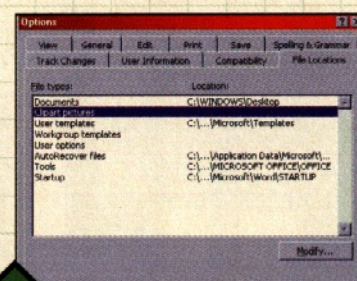
After a little bit of experimentation I was able to achieve the result you wanted. Follow the three steps below and Word 2000 will always return to the last folder used when you are importing images.



Go to the Tools menu of Word 2000 and select the 'Options' command. When the Options control panel opens, click on the 'File Locations' tag then select the 'Clipart Picture's line and click the 'Modify' button.



When the Modify Location file selector window opens, clear the text in the Folder Name bar. Once this is done, click on the 'OK' button.



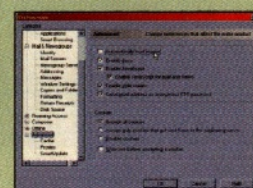
When you get back to the Options control panel, you can see that the Location for Clipart Pictures is blank. Now click on the 'OK' button to save the new settings. The next time you want to open a clipart picture in Word 2000, you will be returned to the last folder you used when importing images. Sorted.

NO PICTURES PLEASE

I'm using Netscape Communicator as my main browser because it seems to be faster than Internet Explorer 4. I would like to know how I can stop Netscape Communicator from displaying images when I am browsing because I feel that this would speed up the whole browsing experience for me.

Caroline McMahon

It's pretty easy to disable images as long as you know the correct place to look in Netscape Communicator. Go to the Edit menu of Communicator and select the 'Preferences' command. Now scroll down the window on the left of the Preferences and select the 'Advanced' option. The right side of the screen now shows a series of options you can enable or disable. To disable images simply deselect the checkbox next to 'Automatically load images' in the Advanced preferences. You can also enable and disable Java, JavaScript, style sheets and cookies from this dialog.



You can disable all kinds of things in Communicator using the Advanced options

EMAIL PIMPERNEL

When I email somebody using my Freeserve account, my email address is not displayed in the From: section when the message is received. Instead of the email address, my name is displayed. Please tell me how to change this so it will display me email address instead. Many thanks in advance for your help.

Mark Finney

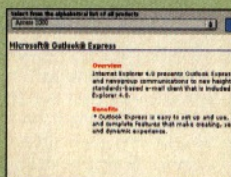
This has nothing to do with Freeserve. It is not a problem a fault with your software. That's how it's supposed to be displayed, so the person who receives the email can see who sent it to them. I'd advise you to leave your settings just how they are, as all is present and correct.

HTML OFF!

Q Some of my mates have complained that all the email I send them is full of HTML code. I don't understand this because I just type in messages in Outlook Express and send them. They look like plain text to me. Is there any way I can solve this problem?

David Long

A I assume that your friends have email programs that cannot cope with HTML format messages. You can change the settings in Outlook Express so your messages are sent as plain text instead of HTML pages. Go to the Tools menu of Outlook Express and select the 'Options' command. When the Options control panel opens, select the 'Send' tab. At the bottom of the window, select the 'Plain Text' radio button in the 'Mail Sending Format' section. Now click on the 'OK' button to save your settings.



Outlook lets you send HTML as plain text

There's no point having a fast modem if you're sharing a phone line

lot smaller than the original PowerPoint file, so you also cut down your online time when you download your email. You can download a trial version from www.winzip.com or it can usually be installed from our cover CD-ROM.

New modem is still slow

I have recently purchased a new 3COM/US Robotics 56k Message modem to try and get improve over the slow connection speed I get from my internal modem. After installing the modem, I am extremely annoyed to find that I connect to the Internet at exactly the same speed as I did before, a low 28,800 bps. I have tried absolutely everything I can think of to find out why this is so, including changing the modem settings, trying out different service providers. In a last attempt, I even had the telephone line checked in case something was wrong there. But nothing seems to work. I was just wondering if there are any extra settings I am overlooking or anything that would speed up the connections. Any help would be appreciated. This is one left to the experts I think, so please help me.

Martin Steele

A I assume from your letter that you have exhausted all of the normal ploys such as changing the connection speed in the Modem control panel to 115,200 bps and so on. I think that your problem may actually lie with your



phone line. I know you have had it checked to see if there are any faults, but it is probably not a fault per se that is causing your connection to be limited to 28,800 bps. Your line is likely to have been set up using DACS. This is a digital line multiplexing system that BT uses to share a single line between two customers when there is a shortage of capacity at the exchange. Essentially, you and a near neighbour are sharing the same connection at the exchange. A single PSTN line is split using a digital box to provide two analogue lines to two customers. Maybe this is why BT is offering half-price lines at the moment?

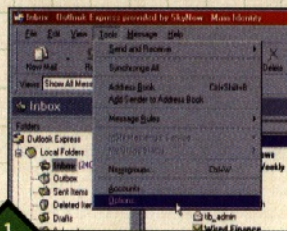
Because of the way DACS works, V.90 modems can only work at V.34 speeds; a V.90 connection needs a one-to-one digital to analogue connection. Your best bet is to contact BT to find out if you are on a shared DACS line, and if so, when you are going to be upgraded to a direct line. Although BT is increasing capacity at its exchanges, it still needs a gentle nudge to sort out problems such as this.

SIGNED, SEELED...

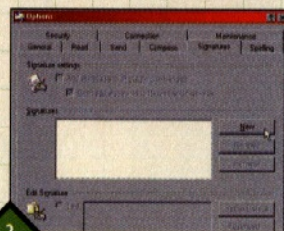
Q I've received email messages with extra text at the end, and this text is always the same when the message comes from the same person. I assume this text is added automatically. How do I set up these little text inserts?

Jo Padalino

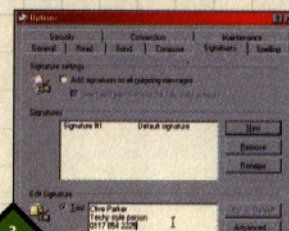
A It sounds like you're referring to signature files. I see from your email header that you are using Outlook Express, so I'll use that email program for this example.



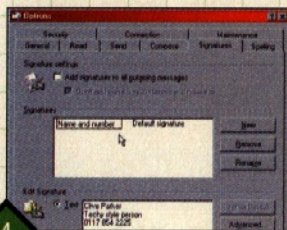
1 Open Outlook Express and go to the Tools menu. When the menu opens, simply select the 'Options' command.



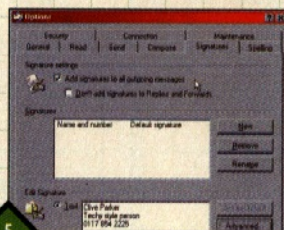
2 When the Options window opens, click on the 'Signatures' tab and then click on the 'New' button to create a new signature. Now's the time to get creative.



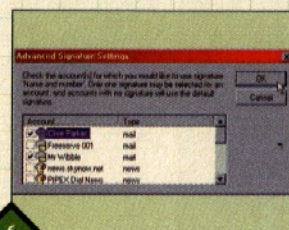
3 In the bottom text window, type in the text of the signature. Most people don't like receiving signatures that are too long, so keep the text to about four lines.



4 In the upper text box, click on the name of the signature so you can easily recognise what it is. Click outside of the box to save the new name.



5 Now click on the 'Add signatures to all outgoing messages' check box in the Signature settings area. If you don't want to add the signature to forwarded messages and replies, click on the lower check box.



6 If you use more than one account, click on 'Advanced'. When this dialog box opens, you can assign each signature to specific email accounts. Click 'OK' to exit, then click on 'OK' in the Options control panel to save the settings.

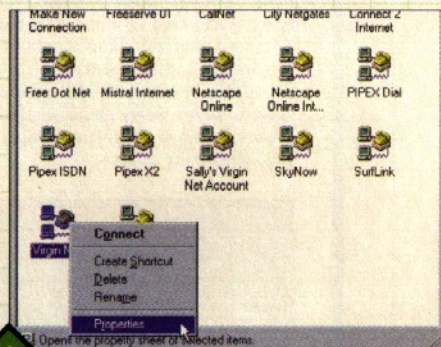


SLOW HIGHWAY

Q I've recently had BT's Home Highway installed at my home and I'm generally happy with the way it works. It's certainly faster than my old 56k modem; but not that much faster, if you know what I mean? I was expecting to be able to download using ISDN at the maximum 115,200bps available through my serial port. I know that I have to use twin ISDN connections to get the faster connection, but the manual with my ISDN terminal adapter doesn't explain how I can check to see if it is set up correctly. Can you help?

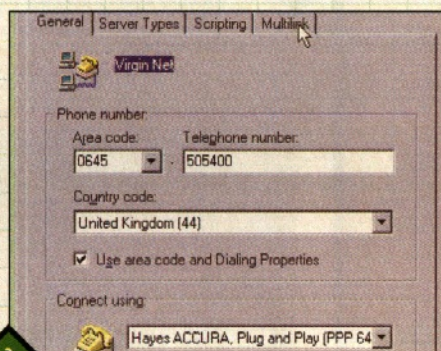
Don Holder

A It's a bit difficult to be specific Don; you didn't say what ISDN terminal adapter you are using. But I can give you some general advice. To ensure a dual ISDN link you must make sure that multilinking is enabled in your dialup connection to your service provider. Of course, your service provider may not provide dual ISDN connection capability and that's why you are getting a slower than expected connection. But in my experience, this little adjustment could make all the difference to your online experience. Follow the steps below to set up multilinking on your ISDN dialup connection.

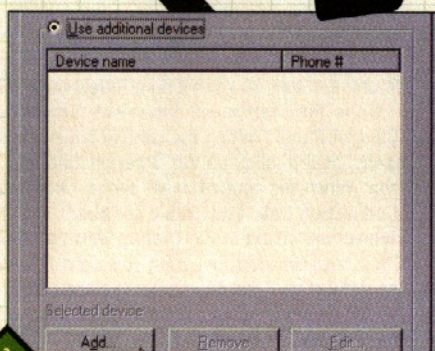
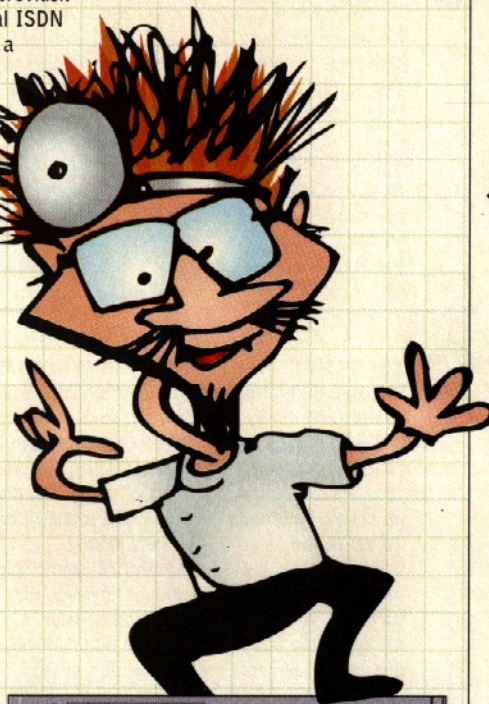


1 Open the property sheet of selected items.

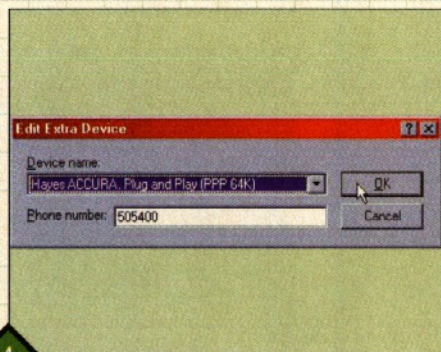
Go to the My Computer icon and double-click on it to open the window. Now double-click on the Dial-Up Networking folder. In the folder, right-click on the connection you want to modify and click on the 'Properties' command.



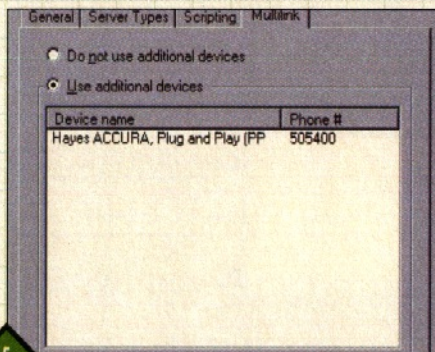
2 In the Properties window of your chosen connection, ensure that the correct device is selected in the 'Connect using:' box. In this case it's a Hayes Accura ISDN terminal adapter. Now click on the 'Multilink' tab at the top of the window.



3 In the Multilink window, click on the 'Use additional devices' radio button above the main information window, and then click on the 'Add...' button at the bottom of the window.



4 In the Edit Extra Device dialog box, choose the same ISDN device as you have chosen for your main connection in the 'Connect using:' box earlier. Essentially, you choose the same device twice. Ignore the 'Phone number:' box and click on 'OK'.



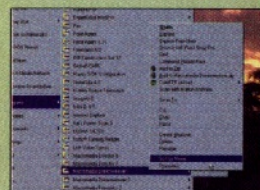
5 In the main window of the Multilink dialog, you can see that the ISDN device has been added to the list of device names. The next time you connect to the Internet using your Home Highway connection, you should get a noticeably faster connection.

RANDOM ACCESS

Q How can you sort the folders in the Start menu in Windows 98 into alphabetical order? I have read in another magazine that I should edit the Windows Registry, but I'm not too keen to do this. Do you have a solution that is less risky?

Tony Whalley

A You're right; editing the Windows Registry can be a little risky if you don't know what you're doing. But you are right to think that there is a less drastic method to solve the problem. Go to the Start button on the Windows taskbar and select the 'Programs' folder as usual. Now move the mouse pointer over any entry in the menu and right-click on it. A pop-up menu appears alongside, click on the 'Sort by Name' command. Hey presto, your folders are now sorted in alphabetical order.



You can sort your Start menu items using a simple right-click. No need to mess with the nasty old Registry at all

ADIOS AMIGA

Q I have an old stock of Amiga games and I have heard that I can download software from the Web that will enable me to play the Amiga games on my PC. Is this right? If so, can you please let me know where the best place is to find this software. I am also concerned that the software will conflict with other programs already installed on my PC which will mean my existing settings will be mucked up.

Paul Hughes

A If you want to find out things on the Internet, you should really start to use some of the search engines that are available. One of my favourites is AltaVista at www.altavista.com. After a brief search I found a download site for an Amiga emulator called UAE, or Ubiquitous Amiga Emulator. You can download it from www.madpc.demon.co.uk/mad/uae along with the files needed to run it.

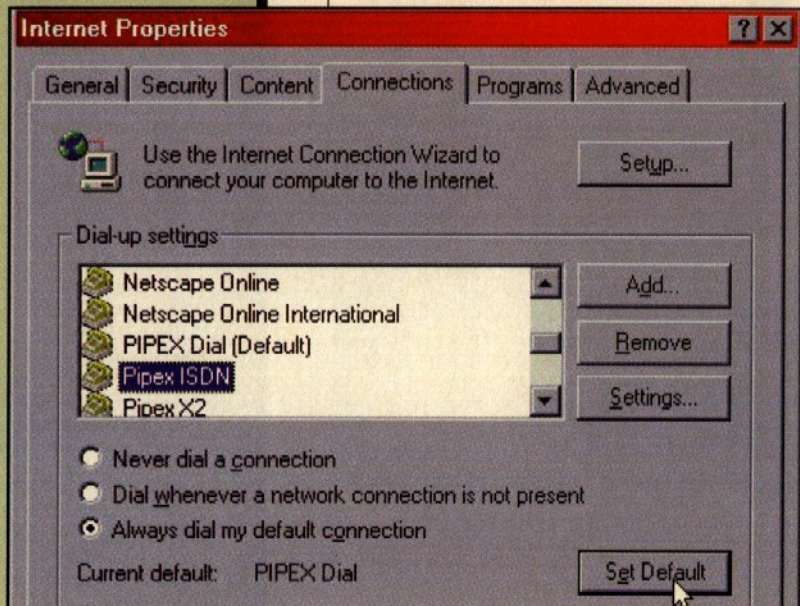
SAVE TIME AND MONEY

Q Being a new Internet subscriber, I am always looking for ways to cut my telephone bills. I've seen adverts for Cable & Wireless, NTL, AXS and others, all promising big cuts in phone bills. Do you recommend any of these in particular and do you know of anywhere where I can get some comparative information about the different services they offer? Many thanks.

Sharon Barnes

A Many different companies offer different rates and incentives for you to switch to make them your service provider. While many offer free local calls at certain times of the day or days of the week, or even a set number of free minutes per month, most of them exclude connection to data services or the Internet from the offer. You really have to study the small print to make sure you don't end up subscribing to a service that means you pay for just as much as you do with BT. Remember you can add a service provider to the BT Friends and Family savings scheme, and by doing so, you can save quite a lot of money over a quarter.

In this example, we have set up PIPEX Dial as the primary provider



Multiple connections

Q I'm pretty new to the Internet and I have quite happily been using a couple of different service providers (Freemove and Netscape Online) at the same time. A friend of mine has informed me that I am asking for trouble by having more than one dial-up networking service available and he has been reeling off horror stories about things going wrong. Is he correct? I have been using both my connections for several months without noticing any problems. I normally use the second account if I have trouble connecting to the other.

Tom Carter

A You shouldn't have any trouble these days with multiple dial-up networking connections. Your friend is probably referring to the dark ages of the Web, about two or three years ago when conflicts cropped up quite a lot. With the later versions of Windows 95 and Windows 98, dial-up networking became a lot more robust. I have 15 or 16 different dial-up networking connections set up on my main PC, and I don't have any problems. You should however, make sure that you use one connection as your primary email account, and set that service provider as your default connection in the Internet Options control panel. This connection is the one that will open when you click on the Send and Receive mail button in Outlook Express. To define a default connection, follow these steps.

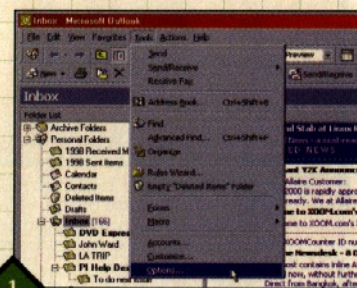
Go to the Start menu and select 'Settings', 'Control Panel'. When the control panel window opens, double-click on the 'Internet Options' icon. When the control panel opens, click on the 'Connection' tab. You should see your connections listed in the Dial-up Setting window. Click once on the connection you want to set as the default so it becomes selected, then click on the 'Default' button. Finally, click on the 'OK' button to exit.

ENCODED

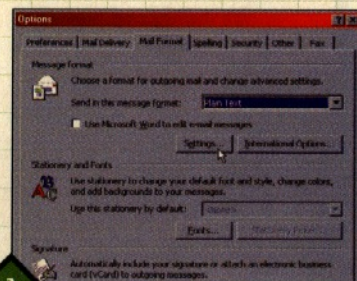
Q I've been having trouble when trying to open documents sent to me as attachments. I am using Outlook 2000 on my PC – which I assume is a standard email application – but I always have problems with things like attached image files (JPEG and GIF) and Microsoft Word documents. I've had a quick look at the settings, but not being an expert, I'm a bit wary of changing anything in case I make things worse. Can you help me?

John Ward

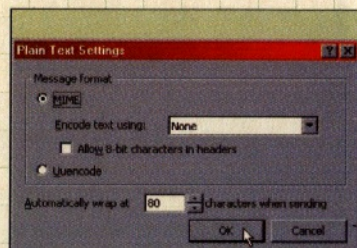
A It sounds as though the encoding used when sending email attachments isn't correctly set up. Most email applications now send attachments using MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) encoding, you should make sure that Outlook 2000 is set up to send and receive email attachments. That said, Outlook 2000 should be able to cope with attachments even if they are sent using the older Uuencode system. Don't worry about what it means, just get the settings adjusted following these steps.



1 Open Outlook 2000 and go to the Tools menu. When the menu opens, select the 'Options' command.



2 When the Options control panel opens, click on the 'Mail Format' tab and make sure Plain Text is selected. Now you have to click on the 'Settings' button in the Message Format section.



3 When the Plain Text Setting dialog box opens, make sure that MIME is selected and then click on 'OK'. Back in the Option control panel, click on the 'OK' button to save the new settings.

WHAT'S **online**

All new!

MAKING THE **INTERNET** WORK FOR YOU



Every month, What's Online helps you get much more from the Internet:

- Jargon-free, hands-on guides
- Real-world Net use made easy
- A great read for all the family

ISSUE 15
ON SALE NOW!

TO ORDER YOUR COPY OF WHAT'S ONLINE, CALL 01202 200200 OR EMAIL SUBS@PARAGON.CO.UK

ScreenBeat **SOUND STATION**

PLAYSTATION

DREAMCAST

INTENDO 64
*Additional Cable required

PC • PC

MACINTOSH

WALKMAN

DISCMAN

CD PLAYER

MP3 • MP3



ACOUSTIC EXCELLENCE

For
**VIDEO GAMES,
PC & MUSIC**

300
WATTS



DON'T JUST HEAR THE GAME... **LISTEN TO IT**

Great game, fantastic graphics, shame about the sound, but not any more thanks to the **ScreenBeat SOUND STATION** – get the sound quality of a £500 TV from your portable. The new **ScreenBeat SOUND STATION 300 watts** of pure sound quality. Blow your mind with the stylish acoustically engineered speaker system. Hear the difference as the *sub-woofer* thumps out the sound of the engine as you rev the game to the limit. Listen to the world in 'wrap around' sound from the *twin satellite speakers*.

The **ScreenBeat SOUND STATION** is the must have audio add on for the serious games player, compatible with Sony PlayStation, Sega Dreamcast and multimedia PCs. This top range speaker system can also be used on your personal cassette, portable CD and MP3 player, to give you a true *stereo system* sound quality anywhere you want.

SPECTRA
VIDEO

SpectraVideo plc (UK)

33 Northfield Industrial Estate, Beresford Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 1NW, U.K.
TEL: 020 8902 2211 FAX: 020 8903 6625 WEB: www.spectravideo.com

All trademarks or trade names are the registered property of their respective companies. Logic 3 is a registered trademark of Logic 3 International Ltd. Wembley, U.K.



NETGAMER ONLINE >>

Visit www.totalgames.net for the latest PC and online gaming news. Please email geoffs@paragon.co.uk with your news items, comments and ideas



REVIEW: HALF-LIFE OPPOSING FORCE: PAGE 102
REVIEW: BATTLEZONE II: PAGE 104

NETGAMER

It's Quake III mayhem all over the world this month. **GEOFF SPICK** tracks down the hottest stories for the latest installment and more

THE MESSIAH IS COMING

ALL being well, January should see the release of Messiah from Shiny Entertainment. You may already be familiar with the demo, which played an important part in the development of the game. Apparently, the developers have been listening to the feedback from the demo disc, which has delayed the game slightly. Offering

innovative gameplay, you play an cherubic angel who can switch bodies. This feature allows you to use hundreds of different characters, Messiah promises to be something really special.

It uses a radical new graphics system to breathe life into its characters and cunning polygon tools to give the game a smooth

frame rate no matter how busy it gets. The RT-DAT system, Real Time Deformation and Tessellation, gives characters skin clothing independent movement and separate graphical effects from the body, as your characters breathe, their chests contract and expand.

Get more info from www.messiah.com.



Quake III frags hackers

QUAKE III Arena's authentication code has been causing all kinds of problems, but for the wrong people. Hackers are trying to overcome the system but as id's Graeme Devine points out, "The actual algorithm is a 64 bit DES key encryption method open to a very small window. The chances of coming up with a real, valid key is in the range of billions and billions to one. A random pass through the available keys shows no sign of repeating sequences, it looks like good old chaos (in fact, statistical math proves this)."

Game crackers are trying to cheat the game making at least double the number of server accesses than authentic users. Id says this justifies the added security for the game. Whether it increases sales of the game is a bigger question. If you are having trouble with your code, make sure you enter it absolutely correctly - every complaint Id has had so far has related to people not transcribing their code correctly. Read more at www.idsoftware.com.

TOP DEMOS!

DOWNLOAD AND ENJOY

1 Demise

www.artifact-entertainment.com
For 110Mb of 16-user role playing action, download at your Orc's peril.



2 Interstate '82

www.activision.com
Flock Of Seagulls will get a taste of road rage in this auto violence extravaganza.



3 Aces High

www.hitechcreations.com
Online WW2 combat game in Beta with loads of aircraft to fly and real targets to shoot.



Oni in Japan!

ONI may be a development by American team Bungie, but it will still fire the imagination of the Manga set that were so enthralled by Shogun in 1998. Oni is a third-person 3D action/adventure that lets you fight with an unfeasibly large array of guns as well as in hand-to-hand combat. Inspired by anime classics like *Ghost in the Shell* and action thrillers like *La Femme Nikita*, there's plenty to get excited about. Set in the year 2032, you play Konoko, an



elite agent on a quest to infiltrate and destroy a ruthless crime syndicate. You fight through a monstrous underground research facility and a towering 15-story police station. As the game progresses, you discover terrible secrets of the underworld, and that there's no one you can trust. Find out more from www.bungie.com.

Quake III gets horny

GOOD news for all crossover Dungeon Keeper 2 and Quake III fans, the DK2 team at Bullfrog Productions has collaborated with the Quake III team to bring a unique addition to the Quake III universe. Dungeon Keeper 2's lead character, Horny the Horned Reaper, has been created as a plug-in Player Model (2.9Mb) to be used with full release versions of Quake III Arena. The model can now be downloaded from: www.bullfrog.com.



Publisher:	Empire
Web:	Sierra
Requirements:	P166, 32Mb RAM, 3D Card recommended, DirectX 6.1
Price:	£39.99

TOPTIP

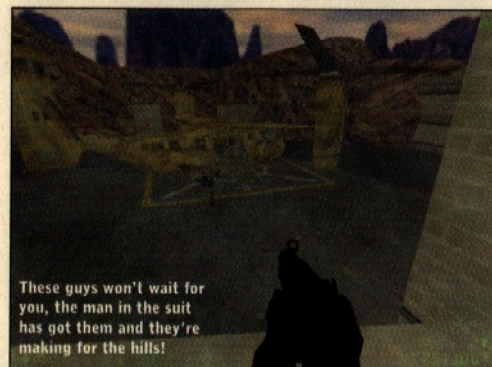
Your squad mates usually turn up for a specific reason, an engineer to get through a door, a medic to cure someone and gunners for a great big fight that you know is just around the corner – be prepared!

HALF-LIFE OPPOSING FORCE

The best FPS game is back, full of new tricks. Oh, and there are plenty of guns!

Oh how we have longed for this moment, the chance to play one of the men in the masks that so haunted you in Half-Life. No longer are you a bearded boffin in a hard suit but a human killing machine with more weaponry than the 7th Cavalry. Opposing Force is really a game in its own right but comes as an expansion pack, so you'll need the original game to play.

Installation is a doddle, upgrading your original Half-Life with the Team Fortress patch, if you haven't already done so. Then it's into the action. You get a slightly shorter intro than last time as your team flies in by helicopter, awaiting the call to action. Then it all goes horribly wrong and you, a lowly Corporal by the name of Shepard, awake to find a dandruff-laden white-



These guys won't wait for you, the man in the suit has got them and they're making for the hills!

coat trying to resuscitate one of your team. Soon you're off on your own, picking up make-do weaponry from the floor. The pacing is initially very similar to the first game but you soon see the curve take off!

Practise makes perfect

If you are new to the Half-Life franchise, then you might want to take a walk through the boot camp where your drill instructor will soon kick you into shape. Back to the game and a few leaps, jumps and

The words fire hazard spring to mind, and there are plenty more of these jets to get around



So he won't be of much help then. Unfortunately his truck is as dead as he's about to be

"Attention men! Men... men..." Oh well it'll just be you fighting off the mysterious alien forces then!

dodges and you have your first gun, an automatic pistol with a laser sight, then the trusty shotgun and at last, the oh-so familiar MP-5 SMG. But further into the game lie the delights of the Squad Automatic Weapon with its belt feed action that helpfully shows how many bullets you have left to pulverise the enemy.

However, big weapons are the least of your worries as you avoid flames, electrical discharges, laser beams, radioactive waste and other forms of death with alarming regularity. This game isn't just about shooting things.

This time around most of the game is set within the Black Mesa facility so you get to see a lot more of it as well as a few familiar locations. The biggest benefit of being a Corporal is that if you run into some of your buddies they will team up and follow you. Imagine leading up to seven heavily armed soldiers around Black Mesa. Oh to see the look on the alien's faces (if only they had faces).

There are loads of new aliens to hunt down as well, mostly variations on the last bunch but a few horrifying newcomers and the boss monsters just leave you stunned. Opposing Force breathes new life into a game that, when you'd finished it, didn't have that much appeal. This will end up with the same problem but for the first couple of runs, it is one of the most atmospheric PC games you can play.

HALF LIFE OP FORCE SCOREBOARD

Graphics:	80%	Starting to look a bit angular now but still very nice
Sound:	93%	Op Force provides half its terror by taunting you with noise
Features:	95%	You get the Team Fortress patch and a whole new adventure!
Online:	95%	Just try TF and you'll never see daylight again
Overall:	94%	Love this game, worship its slime-soiled boots

Ask Yourself this Question?

How FREE IS YOUR FREE ISP?

Monthly Cost for Weekend Internet Line Usage

30 hrs 50 hrs

FREE ISP £18* £30*

PurpleNet £9.99 £9.99

If you think your FREE ISP is completely FREE, THINK AGAIN!

FREE ISPs may not charge you a subscription but you still have to pay for the time you spend online. With PurpleNet's NEW Internet Call Plans you can casually browse the Net on WEEKENDS or EVENINGS without paying a penny in call charges.... All this for just a flat rate monthly subscription of £9.99 + Vat.

* standard local call rate

includes 25MB OF WEBSITE UNLIMITED EMAIL ADDRESSES LOCAL RATE TELEPHONE SUPPORT

0800 783 4535
www.purplenet.co.uk

PURPLENET

Publisher:	Activision
Web:	Sierra
Requirements:	P2, 32Mb RAM, 3D Accelerator recommended
Price:	£39.99

BATTLEZONE II

A hurricane of fresh air through 3D gaming



High octane action and accessible strategy combine in the fascinating world of Battlezone II



Getting out of your ship is generally not advised but sometimes you have no choice in the matter

Battlezone II lets you explore inside buildings and stations as well as outside in the big bad world

Pluto – the last outpost of our solar system and a mine of Bio-metal resources for expanding humanity – or so we think! Within about 10 minutes of your arrival on the planet, the place is swarming with alien Scion scum. As a member of the ISDF – International Space Defence Force – it's your job to kick them off our rock and move the fight to their back door.

Battlezone II is played on two distinct levels. You can choose to fight at the front lines on foot or preferably from the comfort of gliding fighters, tanks, scouts and other hard core weapon platforms. Or you can take the strategic approach, constructing bases, sending out warriors to do your bidding and controlling the action from a higher level. Either way you have a hell of a job on your hands as the Scion hordes attack from the Dark Planet, the long suspected Planet X that orbits beyond Pluto. Beyond that, there are still more worlds to take from this organic race with their exotic weapons.

Resisting the enemy

Each world is increasingly alien and darkly beautiful, sometimes you are happy just exploring to see what is over the next hill. In Commander Mode you must build your base, gather resources and set up your defences to hold out against the alien attacks. That gives you two distinct games for the price of one, and with the usual multiplayer options and an instant action mode, it has a lot of appeal. Battlezone II is a game that is very well crafted, while it takes advantage of the PIII specific instructions and the latest graphics accelerators to produce stunning visuals, it has a very solid game at its core, something you can play forever



in single or multiplayer mode. The exploration, pursuit and combat, the management and unit handling all drag you into the game on the back of the excellent, if hardly original, storyline. The original game was critically acclaimed and BZ2 is more impressive in both depth and gloss. Given the very first Battlezone game was one of the biggest advances in arcade history by employing vector graphics, it is fitting that the game bearing its name at the end of the millennium should be so visually stunning yet simple and enjoyable to play.

BATTLEZONE II SCOREBOARD

Graphics:	86%	Very impressive on a high spec machine
Sound:	80%	A bit muted for an interplanetary war
Features:	82%	A good update of the first game
Online:	80%	The usual array of options
Overall:	85%	Looks good, plays well and is a lot of fun



new look!



IN THIS ISSUE

**TOMB RAIDER
THE LAST
REVELATION**

**AGE OF EMPIRES 2
THE AGE OF KINGS**

FIFA 2000

THEME PARK WORLD

PHARAOH

FREESPACE 2

HOMEWORLD

PLUS NEW REVIEWS SECTION!

THE BIGGEST AND BEST PC SOLUTIONS MAGAZINE!

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS A SINGLE COPY OF PC PLAYER BY RESERVING YOUR COPY AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT...

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE TEL.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION PC PLAYER MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED BY PARAGON PUBLISHING LTD.
(TEL: (01202) 299900, SUBSCRIPTION LINE 01202 200200, FAX (01202) 299955 [HTTP://WWW.PARAGON.CO.UK](http://www.paragon.co.uk))
AND IS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENT

Please reserve
me a copy of PC Player
(ISSN: 1464-4185)
priced £4.95 on a
regular basis. PC Player
is published
6 times a year

What's on the disc?

How to use the CD

Running the disc

Minimum recommended specification to run the *Practical Internet* CD is a 640 x 480 screen resolution, 16Mb RAM, 16 Bit colour, Windows 95/98 (note we do not support Windows 3.1) and an Intel Pentium or compatible 166MHz.

Machines with a lower specification than above will still be able to run the cover disc interface and install the software from it. However, they may find the interface does not perform to its optimum capacity. Please shut down all other applications when running the CD.

Your cover CD will autorun in Windows 95/98. For users without autorun enabled go to the start menu, select RUN and type X:\PI.exe (replacing X with the letter of your CD drive) and press 'Return'.

Disc problems

Damaged discs: We will be pleased to replace any disks that are cracked, scratched or snapped upon purchase. Return them to the following address: Cover Disc Returns, Paragon Publishing, Paragon House, St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2JS.

Missing Discs: If you have purchased the magazine or subscribe and have not received your cover CD please phone 01202 200200 and they will be happy to send you out a replacement disc. You can email subs@paragon.co.uk

Problems

Call the disc helpline weekdays between 10am and 5pm on 01202 200259. Please be ready with the issue number of the magazine and it also helps us deal with your enquiry if you sitting at your computer when you phone. Alternatively you can email us on disceditor@paragon.co.uk

We regret that this we cannot offer technical support on the use of the software once installed, these enquiries should be referred to the software manufacturers. Any problems arising from the use and/or installation of the Internet Service Providers should refer to the relevant ISP as listed on the following pages.

Disclaimer

All software on this CD is tested for known bugs and viruses. Paragon Publishing will not accept liability or responsibility for loss or damage that occurs directly or indirectly from usage of this disc. We will replace discs that have been damaged in transit or at the place of duplication, upon return to our offices.

Not only do you get a fully working version of Engenius 3 Professional Edition on this month's CD, but also 10 top Web building programs and Net accelerator software

ENGENIUS 3 PROFESSIONAL EDITION

Get your site ranked in the top 20 of the Net's leading search engines

You've spent months building your Web site, perfecting its appearance and getting it online. Now

all you need are some visitors. Getting your site listed in search engines is one important step – but this won't be wildly successful unless you're ranked among the top 20 on each.

Engenius 3 from Pegasoweb is your answer. It not only gets your site added to the main engines, but also guarantees you a high placing. In no time, your hit counter will be going through the roof!

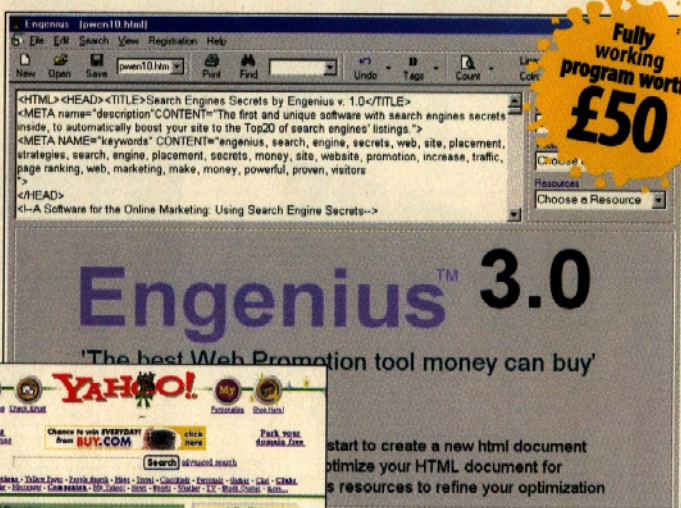
So how does it work? It cleverly scans an HTML page for you and tells you exactly what to change and where, and even how many occurrences of a selected keyword you have to add or delete to alter the site's positioning.

Intelligent software

Since Engenius 3 is 'intelligent', it optimizes your HTML document to ensure your site is ranked highly on the specific search engines you want to target. These include AltaVista, Excite, HotBot, Infoseek/Go, Lycos, MSN, WebCrawler and Yahoo!

The software usually costs \$79 (around £50), but it's completely free to *Practical Internet* readers this month. Remember that it must be unlocked in order to work without any use limits. The only limitation is that you won't get free upgrades. See the box above right on how to unlock the program.

To upgrade to future releases you need to purchase a new licence. To



Fully working program worth £50

Engenius™ 3.0

'The best Web Promotion tool money can buy'

start to create a new html document
optimize your HTML document for
resources to refine your optimization

How to start Engenius 3.0

INSERT the cover disk into your PC and select Engenius 3 from the interface. Once launched, click the 'Enter Registration' button and type in the following ID name: Practical Internet Reader and the code: ENG-67689-TAVX0-Ge6VP. Please note that both the name and code are case sensitive, so type carefully!

upgrade to the Enterprise Edition, you pay an upgrade fee of US\$131.00 (around £80). For more details, see <http://pegasoweb.com>.

Upgrade to the Enterprise edition

SPECIAL OFFER FOR PRACTICAL INTERNET READERS

If you want the very latest and best version of Engenius, you should consider upgrading to the Professional edition. It's available for \$131 (approximately £80) from the Pegasoweb Web site at <http://pegasoweb.com>.

One of the most attractive features is entry to the backdoor entry on Yahoo! You will be able to get your site listed on Yahoo! at the first shot in a surprisingly short time.

It enables you to be listed at Yahoo! with several keywords, has an integrated Spamming Analyser, and has a personalised selection of efficient keywords to enable you to rank certain keywords highly. It also features an FTP client manager that lets you upload and download pages that have been modified with Engenius.



Microsoft unveils new Explorer 5.5

IT'S only a month since Internet Explorer 5.01 was released and now Microsoft has lifted the lid on an even better version. The new browser is only a Beta version – so we wouldn't recommend you ditch your trusty old version just yet – but it does have a host of great new features.

It's dynamic!

Available on our CD in the Essentials section, Explorer 5.5 Beta includes support for Dynamic HTML, Java, and the Channel Definition Format (CDF). An AutoSearch feature lets you choose your search engine and display search results in different ways. For example, you can choose to be redirected automatically to the best-matched site. In the history box, you can sort the list of sites by date, site, most visited, or the order visited. The AutoComplete feature displays a drop-down list of matching sites when you start to type a URL in the address bar. AutoComplete

also works with Web forms, displaying a list of previous entries when you start to type in a field on a Web site.

To automate login processes even further, you can also save usernames and passwords for particular sites. Internet Explorer offers 56-bit encryption and includes a Radio Toolbar, which allows you to listen to radio stations over the Internet as you browse. IE also allows you to select the default email, calendar, newsgroup, and HTML editors of your choice. You can even designate your Web-based email provider as the default email program.

Feature attraction

Version 5.5 Beta includes improved support for DHTML, as well as additional support for vertical text and existing standards such as Cascading Style Sheets (CSS 1). IE 5.5 Beta also features additional support for the Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL). A print preview feature has been added to this version. Other features include improvements in printing performance and several enhancements that will be useful with soon-to-be-released Windows 2000.

NB: You should note that this is a Beta version that may contain bugs or cause your system to become unstable. IE 5.5 Beta features Active Setup (a 475K file), which requires that you maintain your Internet connection after you double-click ieSetup.exe. Active Setup will prompt you to choose among various IE packages; these range in size from 8.3Mb to over 40Mb, with a typical install of 11.8Mb.



MULTIPLE EMAILS MADE EASY

CYBER-INFO Email Notify is a new email notification utility that lets you check multiple POP and Webmail accounts for new messages and delete spam.

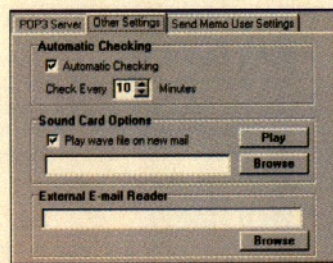
A pop-up message with sound lets you know that mail has arrived, or you can use various visual effects. You can launch an external mail reader or quickly view, delete, reply, forward and send email without having to load your full

email package. HTML-formatted mail can be viewed and there are a variety of spam-filtering options available. You can redirect all mail from a Webmail account to your own POP3 account automatically.

Send Internet faxes

You can have Cyber-Info check HotMail, Yahoo! Mail, and Excite Inbox Web accounts with the option of retrieving email from these Webmail accounts using your own email client program.

You can also send Internet faxes, display system info, control your screen saver, change your screen resolution, and much more. Proxy settings are supported and the program even fixes a bug in the Excite and Yahoo! mail checking function. It's available in the Soft Spot section of our cover disc.



Web building packages

Try out 10 of the very best HTML programs

Net Objects Fusion 4

An excellent tool for site management, dynamic Web page creation, and data publishing. The visual site structure editor gives you centralised control over the look and feel of your site by letting you create master borders, links and navigational elements. The visual HTML layout editor combines WYSIWYG page creation with pixel-level control.

Adobe GoLive 4

Unlike entry-level Web authoring tools, Adobe GoLive 4 lets you visually lay out Web pages using a grid and rulers – with pixel-level control – just as you would with a page-layout program. Precisely position and resize images, tables, and text boxes. Select multiple cells in tables for text formatting, then reverse your actions with a click. Formatting and updating has never been easier.

Adobe PageMill 3

PageMill provides an easy way to get your site on the Web. It's the only tool you need to design, build, post, and manage your pages. There's no need to learn HTML or master complex applications. With its drag-and-drop simplicity, PageMill integrates seamlessly with your current office and graphics applications, including Word, WordPerfect, Excel, Photoshop and Illustrator.

CoffeeCup HTML

CoffeeCup includes a colour wizard, a table wizard, a form designer, a font designer and a list designer. There are a variety of tools and HTML templates for creating tables, frames, pages that redirect users to other pages, mouseover events, simple mail forms, image layers, image maps, Web pages that contain sound; and more.

Cool Page v2.0

Cool Page makes creating Web pages a simple matter of dragging, dropping, and changing the properties of objects. Dozens of pre-built objects are included, including animations,

backgrounds, bars, buttons, icons, and interface elements. You can also import your own JPG or GIF images and preview your pages in any browser you want, then publish and upload with the click of a button.

HoTMetal Pro 6.0

This HTML editor lets you quickly switch between three different views of your work – a WYSIWYG view, a source code view, and a unique "Tags On" view that combines the precision of source editing with the convenience of WYSIWYG. For new users, a "Site Maker" wizard lets you quickly choose a layout and a theme, then add graphics, text, and special effects.

1st Page 2000

1st Page 2000 is an HTML/script authoring tool for Webmasters. It comes with an impressive interface and a mixture of all the best features from several top-name HTML editors. Some features worth mentioning include automatic image sizing, an HTML stripper, document compressor, source formatter, many JavaScript features, LiveSpell (checks spelling as you type), TidyHTML, XML converter and an FTP client.

Cute HTML 1.2

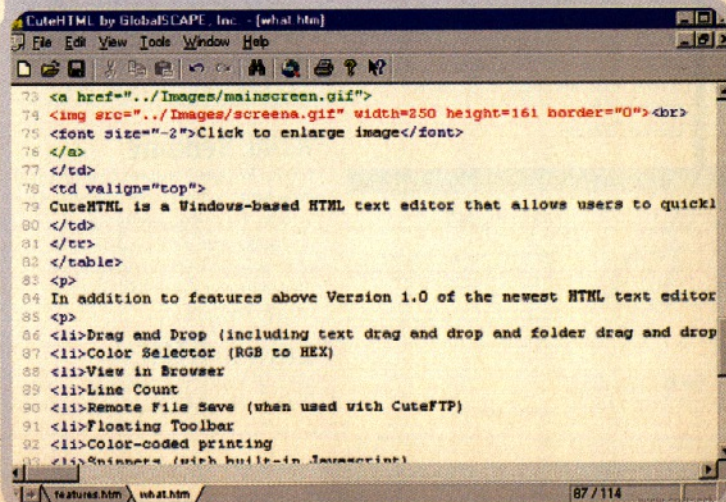
CuteHTML (pictured below) provides a simple, user-friendly interface for editing HTML files. Its features include color-coded tags, an RGB to HEX color selector, the ability to view pages in a browser, a floating toolbar, colour-coded printing, and the ability to save and recall code snippets.

Hot Dog Pro 5

HotDog not only lets you create Web pages but also includes tools for editing remote files, adding plug-ins, creating a low-bandwidth version of your site, as well as tools for creating buttons, animated GIFs, frames, client-side image maps, Java-based text effects, Java-based animations, and JavaScript effects.

HomeSite 4

HomeSite provides a well-designed interface along with a full range of essential features for professional Web designers. Features include a variety of pre-built templates, a built-in preview window, a frames wizard, support for style sheets and ActiveX controls, drag-and-drop access to documents, plus table functions.



What's on the disc?

Home Improvement

DON'T just surf the Web. Create your own site and get surfers to come and look at yours! We've put together a great lineup of software to help you build a sensational looking site.

This includes HTML packages to create your pages, graphics programs to add some colour to your site, and submission tools for letting the search engines know that your site is online. Refer to the Home Improvement section of the magazine on pages 57-62 for more details.

AddWeb 3.12

Web site submission utility
Licence: 30 day trial

CoffeeCup GIF Animator

Design Web banners & graphics
Licence: 15 day trial

CoffeeCup HTML Editor

Web page authoring package
Licence: Shareware

Coolmap 3.0

Image map creator
Licence: Freeware

CuteFTP 3.0

Popular file transfer client
Licence: 30 day trial

Exploit Submission Wizard 5.0

Batch URL submission tool
Licence: Shareware

HomeSite 4.0.1

Web page editor
Licence: Shareware

HotDog Express

Template-based Web page creator
Licence: Shareware

Lview Pro

Image processor
Licence: Time limited evaluation

Ulead PhotoImpact Viewer

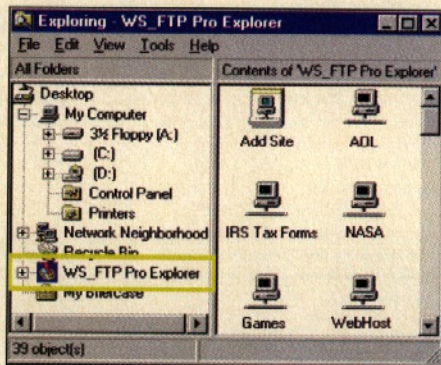
Image conversion utility
Licence: Shareware

URL Cook

Handy mail form decoder
Licence: Freeware

WS_FTP

FTP client software
Licence: Limited version



Soft Spot

YOU'LL find the following programs in the Soft Spot section of our CD.



HomeWatcher

HomeWatcher is a motion sensitive Webcam application that allows you to monitor your home. HomeWatcher takes snapshots at regular time intervals, compares each snapshot with the previous one, and saves the image whenever motion is detected.

It can also create Web pages, dial up an Internet connection in order to upload snapshots and Web pages to your Web space, and store snapshots and Web pages locally.

Licence: Freeware
URL: www.homewatcher.com/

Auto Meta Tags

Auto Meta Tags allows you to generate META tags for all your Web pages. One way to get lots of hits on your Web site is to have accurate

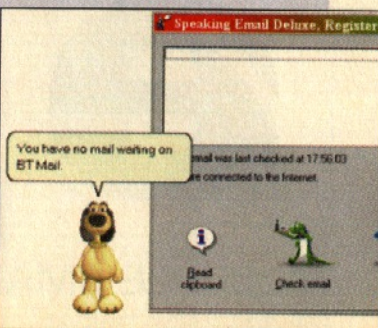
META tags – but they are normally time consuming and difficult to write. This program makes it easier. It helps you with your META tags, picks a high ranking title and description, then includes keywords and a keyword booster, and inserts all these tags into your Web pages. Auto Meta Tags can run in Automatic Mode or Manual Mode, and enables you to simultaneously generate META tags for several Web pages. It also includes a find-and-replace function, which allows you to easily exchange weak keywords with relevant ones acquired with the Scan function.

Licence: Shareware
URL: <http://216.65.60.219/products.html>

Speaking Email Deluxe

Speaking Email Deluxe is an email reader that allows you to have your messages read to you by a specific Microsoft Agent character. You can have the program read the sender's name, the subject, and a short section of the message, as well as send a speaking email to anyone who has Microsoft Agent installed on their PC with the same character. You can have up to 99 email accounts and delete waiting messages from your server.

Licence: Shareware
URL: www.uk-software.com/speakingemail.htm



MAC ESSENTIALS FOR THE NET

WE'VE COMPILED A FANTASTIC COLLECTION OF TOP MAC SOFTWARE – ALL OF WHICH YOU CAN FIND ON OUR CD

HTML SOFTWARE

Colour Picker

An HTML colour selection utility that helps you pick browser-safe colours.
Licence: Freeware

Form Saver

FormSaver allows you to easily implement HTML forms for user feedback. The program takes all the information entered on the form and saves it into a tab-delimited file.
Licence: Freeware

Adobe GoLive

Adobe's high-end Web page creation package is laden with features.
Licence: 30 day trial

HTML Grinder

HTML Grinder is designed to be used with your current HTML editor rather than replace it. The program comes with numerous features, such as search and replace, that make coding easier than with a standard editor.
Licence: Demo version

HTML Rename

HTML Rename! ensures that files and Web pages will work on any operating system. This cross-platform utility augments your HTML editor by generating universally compatible filenames and fixing URL links.
Licence: Shareware

Intro to HTML

Intro to HTML is a complete training course that guides you through the

elements required to create Web pages using HTML.
Licence: Freeware

Page Inspector

Checks your Web pages for errors.
Licence: Shareware

Adobe PageMill 3

Adobe's easy-to-use Web site creation package. Great for building your site.
Licence: 30 day trial

NET ACCELERATORS

CyberGauge 2.2

This program will monitor multiple network interfaces on multiple devices. If you use Open Transport TCP/IP, CyberGauge automatically finds the routers that connect your Macintosh to the Internet.
Licence: Freeware

Keep Me On Line

Monitors your Net connection to optimise your settings.
Licence: Shareware

Lightspeed Surfer

Optimise your Internet settings for your Mac.
Licence: Shareware

Modem Light

One of the best programs around for speeding up your Net connection.
Licence: Shareware

Web Devil

Web Devil quickly downloads Web pages with their associated images, textures, and links. Provide a URL, and Web Devil will download all the items on that page.
Licence: Shareware

Web Finder

Helps you boost the speed of your Net connection.
Licence: Shareware



Net connection accelerators

YOU'LL find the following programs in the Soft Spot section of our CD. They're reviewed in the head-to-head test on pages 80-81.

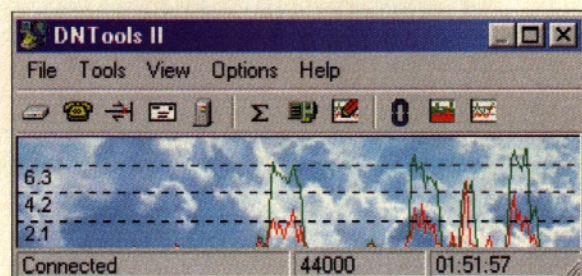
Net Sonic

NetSonic accelerates your Internet browsing by loading previously visited Web pages quickly.

NetSonic's IntelliCache technology stores your favourite Web pages in its cache. Instead of downloading the page over the Internet, the requested Web page is displayed from NetSonic's cache.

DN Tools

DNTools is designed to help you monitor, optimize, and simplify your Dial-Up Networking connection. DNTools is an integrated dialler, connection monitor, connection keeper, automatic reconstructor, email notifier, and file manager.



Increase your connection speed with our range of Net Accelerators in this month's Soft Spot section

Intelli Dial Up

Tweaks your modem settings to make your surfing experience more rewarding and successful. A small, yet very useful, program.

WebRifle

WebRifle is a real-time Web surfing accelerator specifically designed for Internet Explorer 4 and 5 to achieve a faster and more effective approach to the Internet. It enhances your Web navigation by predicting your need for Web pages with a sophisticated algorithm to anticipate hyperlinks and to retrieve Web pages before the browser needs to display them.

Fast Net 99

This ingenious little program extracts DNS entries and writes them to the Hosts file on your PC. Because the information can then be found locally, there's no need to access the information online – hence saving you time when visiting your favourite Web sites.

WEB ESSENTIALS

MUST-HAVE PC SOFTWARE FOR SURFERS

1st Page 2000

HTML and script authoring tool
Licence: Freeware

Aladdin Expander 5.0

Uncompress SIT & ZIP files quickly
Licence: Freeware

Ativa DUN Meter 2

Check your modem performance
Licence: 15 day trial

Browserola

Emulate IE & Netscape browsers
Licence: Shareware

CuteFTP

File Transfer Protocol client
Licence: 30 day trial

Disconnecter 2.5

Internet disconnection utility
Licence: Freeware

Download Accelerator

Speeds up downloads
Licence: Freeware

Easy MTU

Connection optimisation utility
Licence: Freeware

ecBuilder Pro

Create secure online trading
Licence: Demo

Eudora Light 3.06

Widely used email client
Licence: Freeware

Forte Free Agent

Newsgroup reader
Licence: Freeware

F-Secure Anti-Virus

Transparent Virus Protection
Licence: 30 day trial

FTP Voyager

FTP client for getting your Web site online
Licence: 30 day trial

GIF Construction Set

GIF animation creator
Licence: Shareware

ICQ 99b Beta 3.19

Real time chat program
Licence: Freeware

Internet Explorer 5.01

New version of Explorer
Licence: Freeware

InstaBase Web Ready

Database designer
Licence: Shareware

Neoplanet

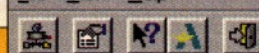
Customise your Explorer 4 interface
Licence: Freeware

NeoTrace

Trace the routes of your Net connection
Licence: Shareware

Aladdin Expander

File View Help



Drag and drop archives and encoded files

For Help, press F1

Net Lightning

Internet connection optimizer
Licence: Freeware

Net Vampire

Resume and restart broken Net downloads
Licence: Freeware

Opera 3.60

Integrated browsing, Newsgroup & email client
Licence: Shareware

Palace 3.4.2

Audio/Visual chat software
Licence: Freeware

PGP

Encrypt files and email messages
Licence: Freeware

Sonique 1.05

Audio player with MP3 support
Licence: Freeware

Spam Hater

Fightback against spammers
Licence: Demo

Spamicide

Spam mail filter
Licence: Demo

Visual IRC

Real-time voice and video chat
Licence: Freeware

Web Ferret

Search engine enhancer
Licence: Freeware

Web Washer

Removes banner ads from pages your visit for faster Web surfing
Licence: Freeware

WinZip 7.0

Compression and extractor utility
Licence: Shareware

Name	Modified	Size	Ratio	Pac
SETUP.LIB	5/7/98 11:19 AM	198,189	1%	196
JSDEL.EXE	9/7/95 8:22 PM	8,192	54%	3
SETUP.T	5/7/98 11:20 AM	3,543,362	1%	3,508
SETUP.DLL	12/19/96 5:03 PM	6,128	51%	3
INST.CLS	1/10/97 12:04 PM	320,411	0%	319
DISP.LIB	5/7/98 11:20 AM	5	0%	0
SETUP.EXE	1/10/97 11:53 AM	45,312	46%	24
SETUP.INI	5/7/98 11:19 AM	47	0%	0
SETUP.INS	5/6/97 1:26 AM	68,967	1%	68
SETUP.ISS	5/7/98 11:19 AM	361	43%	0
SETUP.POF	5/7/98 11:19 AM	972	95%	0
SETUP.PKG	5/7/98 11:20 AM	1,195	45%	0
UNSTUB.EXE	6/7/98 11:19 AM	17,820	54%	8

Web Site Turbo

Optimise your Web images to load faster.
Licence: Shareware

Fire Site

Make your Mac turbo charged when using the Net.
Licence: Shareware

MAC ESSENTIALS

Aladdin Expander 5.5

Uncompresses a range of file types.
Licence: Shareware

DropStuff 5.5

File compression utility.
Licence: Freeware

Eudora Light 3.13

Email client.
Licence: Freeware

ICQ 99

Communicate with others online.
Licence: Freeware

Internet Explorer 4.5

Microsoft's Web browser.
Licence: Freeware

MacAMP 1.0

Multi-format audio player.
Licence: Demo version

Outlook Express 4.5

Newsgroup and email reader.
Licence: Freeware

Outlook Express 5

Simple-to-use email program.
Licence: Freeware

SoundAppFat

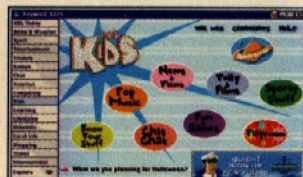
Utility to convert audio files.
Licence: Freeware

ISPS

Free Net access for Mac users from Madasafish and Abel Gratis.

AOL

Try the Internet completely free for 10 hours with no Internet phone bill



Keyword: AOL Today

AOL TODAY FRIDAY

ON THIS DAY

DAILY DEALS

CLASSIFIEDS

SHARES

STARS

QUIZ

You're in business!

Shake off the shackles of the 9-to-5 and learn how to set up your own business. Plus, research potential rivals and visit our Professional Forums

That was the week that was

Have your say, in a week where the food war raged hard, and the world of football mirrored recent [Anglo-French relations](#)

Sale of the century

Although you may not be able to afford a Marilyn Monroe dress, you can be sure of snapping up bargains galore in our [auctions](#), [Classifieds](#) and [gift areas](#).

What's the story, dad?

Champagne over for Liam

While the [Oasis](#) front man ditches the high life to focus on the family, catch up on the rest of the day's [music headlines](#)

--Win Faithless CDs
--Rock and pop messages
--Parenthood

AOL have always been about making the Internet easy to understand, and easier to access for everybody. And we've just made it easier still. Because we've introduced the simplest pricing structure ever. When you opt for our unlimited access plan – now available for just £9.99 per month – all your Internet call charges are just 1p a minute. So it doesn't matter when you log on, daytime, night-time, weekday or weekend, it will never cost more than a 1p per minute.

What's more, for a limited time, if you sign up now you'll get 10 hours of AOL access, including Internet phone calls, for absolutely nothing.

Your FREE AOL trial gives you: –

- FREE 10 hour AOL trial
- FREE No Internet phone bill
- FREE Customer Support
- FREE Parental controls

AOL is filled with exclusive content not available on the Internet designed to entertain you and your children for hours. From the AOL Kids channel to online shopping. You can also get the latest news and sporting highlights as it breaks, or maybe chat with celebrities online. What's more, there's free Customer Support 7 days a week.

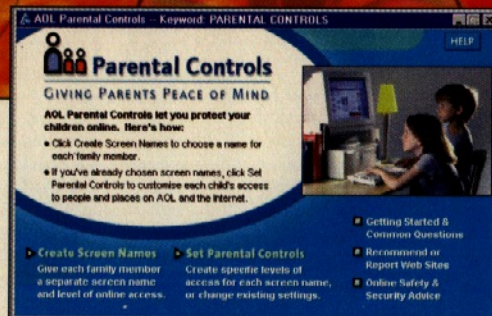
AOL is the fast track to a whole new world on the Internet, email and much more. With 17 channels on AOL you can explore a wealth of information, so read more about AOL 4.0i today and find out for yourself what makes AOL the world's favourite Internet online service.

Super fast Internet service

AOL is your fast track to the super highway. Simply enter a Web address and press 'Return.' With Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 and AOL's powerful search engine, AOL Netfind™, it's easy to find anything on the Web. Internet Explorer 4.0 supports advanced HTML features so you can be sure that most Web pages will look the way they were intended.

Instant Global Communications

With AOL, it's easy to send and receive unlimited email anywhere in the world. Plus, every AOL account comes with five separate email addresses and you can switch between them online without hanging up. AOL 4.0i lets you attach up to nine files to your emails at



one time, so you can send all those important documents, photographs and spreadsheets in one go. You can customise your email with a personal letterhead, typestyle, bold, italics or colours and AOL 4.0i will even spell check before sending!

Parental Controls

Are you worried about what your kids might be able to access? Rest assured this will be within your control on AOL. Set your own limits for those AOL and Internet areas your kids have access to. You can block various types of access to the Net, such as downloads from Newsgroups or Chat Rooms, or you can restrict Internet access completely with the use of Web Controls.

Shopping

Online shopping is fun, fast, safe and open 24 hours. With AOL we provide you with exclusive discounts on selected goods as well as your own shopping help section which will guide you through all those unanswered questions about shopping online. We have reliable and well known retail suppliers such as Thorntons, Interflora, ebay and QXL for you to purchase that special gift. Other popular areas include books, music, travel, food and much more. Plus, check out the exclusive AOL Shop for more great bargains.

Sport

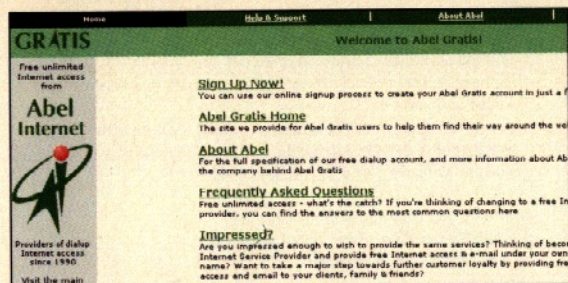
AOL's sport channel provides live wire feeds on football, rugby, tennis, cricket, motorsport, golf and lots more. There is plenty of interactive coverage within Re:Play, an area which hosts elements such as chat, message boards and weekly competitions. Plus, enter our online football manager game You're The Boss and you could win great prizes!

Travel

Don't leave home without checking AOL first for all your travel information. You can book your flights, hotels, car hire and travel insurance, all within the Booking Centre online, plus quick finders give you fast access to booking partners such as Expedia, Places to Stay and Thomas Cook. There are UK and World Guides bringing you the writing expertise of Lonely Planet, plus, Travel Resources includes information on visas, embassies and vaccinations.

Service Provider:	AOL
Free time:	10 hours
Modem speeds:	Up to 56k
Technical support:	0800 376 5432
Sales Enquiries:	0800 279 1234
Web site:	www.aol.co.uk
Monthly rate:	£9.99 plus 1p a minute Net connection
Annual Rate:	£99.99
Platforms:	Win 3x, 95, 98, Mac

Abel Internet



**Ready, willing and
Abel to set YOU up
as a FREE Internet
service provider**

Business customers will be interested to learn of another first from Abel Internet.

Abel can set up your business as an Internet service provider and offer you a re-branded Portal facility at minimal expense. This is a big

step towards customer loyalty and a very efficient way of staying in touch with one's client base. Abel is happy to provide this service no matter how big or small a client-base may be. Visit: www.isp-pdq.co.uk and see how your company can generate extra income.

Abel Internet, already well established and respected for its reliable subscription services, also provides a free service offering full Internet access and email facilities on a local call rate number.

Abel Gratis, Abel's FREE service, offers you full unlimited free access to the Internet with no hidden charges at speeds, as well as unlimited multi-user email addresses. Choosing Abel Gratis will also entitle you to 50Mb free Web space available for personal or business use.

Your free Web space includes free Statistical Reports and use of Abel's Secure

Server. The really interesting news is that Abel Gratis is the first ISP in the UK to offer all its clients, both business and private, a vast choice of domain addresses to choose from with their free service. This avoids the expense and maintenance of a full domain name. There's also fun names, for example:

joe@bloggs.net-shopping.org.uk

joe@bloggs.the-office.org.uk

joe@bloggs.far2sexy.co.uk

joe@bloggs.oo7.org.uk

....and many more

Abel supplies software for Windows, Mac and Amiga. Simply install Abel's software from the cover CD or visit www.abelgratis.co.uk to set yourself up on line. Abel's clients can now additionally access their email via the Web. All Abel clients, regardless of the service they choose, benefit from the free use of Abel's Secure Server.

Service Provider:	Abel Gratis
Free time:	From Life to eternity
Modem speeds:	Up to 56k (x2, K56Flex, V.90)
Technical support:	Abel Gratis: 0906 680 4444
Sales Enquiries:	0906 680 4444
Web site:	www.isp-pdq.co.uk and www.abelgratis.com
Monthly rate:	Free
Annual Rate:	Free
Platforms:	Win 3.x, 95, 98, NT4, Macintosh (Call for Amiga)

conX

**Get Net access
for free, and also
receive voice and
fax messages**

Choosing the right Internet service can be a difficult decision. conX prides itself on offering a unique free service which gets you on the Internet with as little hassle as possible.

The conX Web site has been designed in such a way that you can find what you want quickly and easily – whether it's on the conX site or somewhere out in the billions of pages available throughout the world.

Great content

But you don't just get free Internet access when you sign up with conX. The company also supplies online content that aims to bring the very best of the Net straight to you. This content is clearly divided into sections, so you can quickly locate the information that you need. For example, in the Day

2 Day section, you can find out the latest news, check the weather reports, plan your journey or find out about traffic information. You can even check on the latest share prices to see how your millions are shaping up! What about a night out on the town? The entertainment section has

links to all the essential sites that will let you plan an evening's extravaganza, from finding out what's playing where, to buying the tickets. But if you want an evening in, the Food and Drink section will satisfy your appetite with facts about food and drink and many recipes. You can even buy all you need for a great night in thanks to the Shopping section. Whether it's CDs, books or gadgets, there's plenty to keep your credit card happy.

The other sections on the site include Travel, Recruitment, Computer and Internet and Sport, so there really is something for everyone.

Other services

In addition to the online content, there's a whole host of other services which make conX a great ISP. There's 20Mb free Web space, free sub-domain and unlimited email addresses which take the form of someone@yourchoice.conX.co.uk, free access to news servers, access speeds up to 128kbps and National Rate support line. If you think conX is the ISP for you, sign up today.

Service Provider:	conX
Free time:	Life
Modem speeds:	All Modems – up to 128k ISDN
Technical support:	08707 410 510
Sales Enquiries:	0800 52 54 70
Web site:	www.conX.co.uk
Monthly rate:	Free
Annual Rate:	Free
Platforms:	Win 9x, Win NT, Mac



LineOne



Something to email home about!

If you want to get on the Internet but don't know where to start, or if you are currently paying for Internet access instead of getting it free, or if you already have free Internet access but your Internet service provider gives you little to email home about, it's well worth taking a look at LineOne.

LineOne offers Internet access, which is second to none – now absolutely FREE! All you pay is the cost of a local rate call for the time you spend online. But to get the most out of the Internet, you need a service provider that can give you much more than just free access. This is where LineOne really scores.

Talking emails!

A frequent failing of free ISPs (Internet service providers) is that they lack their own content. They act merely as a portal to the big World Wide Web but, from then on, you have to find pretty much your own way – wasting an awful lot of time in the process. LineOne, on the other hand, is rich in great UK content, all of which is indexed and organised into Sections so you can find the information you want quickly and easily.

As well as providing the complete service you would expect from an Internet supplier, LineOne also offers a lot of exclusive extras to make your Internet experience much more interesting and much more fun! One such service is RocketTalk – an Internet first – which enables you to send and receive voice messages via your PC so that people listen to your messages over their PC instead of reading them. There are no downloads or special software required to listen to the

messages – and it's free. It's just like talking emails! Plus, there's Ping! which allows you to send an instant typed message to any other LineOne members which automatically pops up on the recipients' desktop. A portable on-screen

'Friends list' tells you which of your friends and colleagues are online at any time and unlike some other similar services, Ping! is easily accessible from absolutely any PC!

If it's new friends you want to make, then LineOne's lively chat rooms provide a friendly and simple environment to meet people with the same interests as you.

FREE Registration and membership
FREE Unlimited, fast, reliable access
FREE 5 email addresses
FREE Online chat and instant messaging
FREE Shopping offers with exclusive online discounts
FREE 50Mb Web space for your Web site
FREE Controls to protect children's access
FREE 24-hour online customer support

To join simply insert the House CD on the front of this magazine and click on the LineOne icon or join online www.lineone.net

Service Provider:	LineOne
Free time:	Life
Modem speeds:	K56 Flex, V.90, x2 and ISDN
Technical support:	support@lineone.net (free)
Sales Enquiries:	0800 111210
Web site:	www.lineone.net
Monthly rate:	Free
Annual Rate:	Free
Platforms:	Windows and Mac

LINEONE Madasafish

Madasafish – a fast, free ISP with attitude

HELP!

If you need any, there's an excellent telephone support service. No premium rates here on Madasafish, just a normal phone call. Available 8am-11pm every day, the number is: 01851 777727

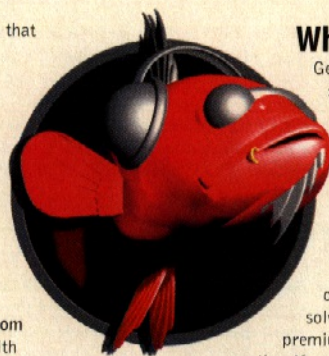
Madasafish? What kind of a name's that for an Internet service provider? Well... You want free Internet access, right? Easy. Just go to any old free ISP and you'll get it. But what do you really, really want? Do you want it fast? With unlimited Web space, email, newsgroups – the full monty? Want fast free Internet music to go? Fast free high voltage online gaming?

If you love music or you live games, and want them fast and free with no other rubbish, you'll be wanting Madasafish.

www.madasafish.com – fast, free ISP with attitude.

What you get

With Madasafish you get loads of great services and features, all absolutely free. For a start, you get free Internet access, free unlimited Web space, free unlimited email addresses, Music Automatic Daily for fast music news – and MadMP3 for free music. As if this wasn't enough, there's also GameRush for awesome online gaming, free software downloads from the TuCows mirror site, newsgroups and bulletin boards. Plus, there's also top, fast, cheap telephone support from the NetCentre.



What to do

Getting connected with Madasafish is quite simple. To begin with, simply take your free CD off the cover and stick it in your CD drive. Choose Madasafish and follow the instructions that are on-screen. After this, all you have to do is start surfing the Internet.

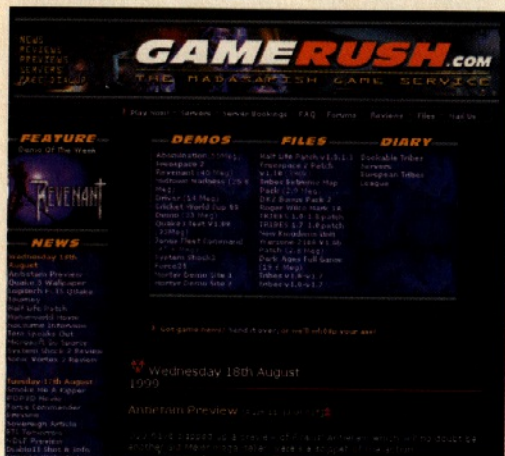
If you do run into any problems with this, there's no need to panic. Just call 01851 777727 to contact one of Madasafish's customer service agents who will help you solve it right away. And don't worry – it's not a premium rate call (like some other 'free' ISPs) just

your telephone provider's normal charges...

Anything else you want to do with the CD is up to you... of course you could give it to a friend and let them get all Madasafish with you.

Welcome aboard!

Service Provider:	Madasafish
Free time:	Life
Modem speeds:	Up to V.90 and ISDN
Technical support:	01851 777727
Sales Enquiries:	0800 0273 373
Web site:	www.madasafish.com
Monthly rate:	Free
Annual Rate:	Free
Platforms:	Windows and Mac





If you are new to PCs and the Net, you need clear, jargon-free guidance in the basics. That's what Paragon Publishing's 'Made Easy' magazines are for. These unique beginners' magazines, available from all good newsagents, are colourful easy-to-understand and perfect for novices.

magazines are for. These unique beginners' magazines, available from all good newsagents, are colourful easy-to-understand and perfect for novices.

Start here...

Look out for the new 'Made Easy' brand — you're guaranteed beginner-friendly tutorials and no jargon!



New launch!

Internet Made Easy

Internet Made Easy is the complete guide to getting on the Net. The magazine includes photo guides to getting your PC or Mac online, and explains

exactly how to, send email, use the Web and much more.

ONSALE DATE: ISSUE THREE OUT NOW! PRICE: £1.99



The only dedicated magazine for home page builders

Web Pages Made Easy

Once you've figured out the basics of connecting to the Net with Internet Made Easy, why not have a go at making your own Web site? Web Pages Made Easy is the

magazine you need to do this. Includes packed CD of the best Web-site creation software.

ONSALE DATE: ISSUE FIVE OUT NOW! PRICE: £3.99

To order copies or subscribe, call 01202 200200



Windows Made Easy

Windows Made Easy is the ultimate resource for people who've just bought their first PC. Everything you need to know about Windows is

explained in clear, jargon-free tutorials, and the magazine is crammed with hints and tips.

ONSALE DATE: ISSUE 18 OUT NOW! PRICE: £3.95



Reserve them now



Name
Address
.....
Phone number
Postcode

Guarantee your copy of the 'Made Easy' magazines by completing this form and giving it to your newsagent.

- ☐ Please reserve me a copy of Internet Made Easy, priced £1.99, on a regular basis (ISSN: 1465-6965)
- ☐ Please reserve me a copy of Web Pages Made Easy, priced £3.95, on a regular basis (ISSN: 1464-7424)
- ☐ Please reserve me a copy of Windows Made Easy, priced at £3.95, on a regular basis. (ISSN: 1461-2631)

These titles are published by Paragon Publishing (tel 01202 299900) and are available from your local wholesaler. The magazines are distributed by Seymour (tel 01202 299923) and are fully SOR.

Practical

THE UK'S FASTEST GROWING INTERNET MAGAZINE

Internet

GETTING ONLINE CHEAPER, FASTER AND EASIER

**SOLVE ALL
YOUR NET
PROBLEMS
WITH ONE
SIMPLE
PHONE
CALL**

•The new Practical Internet helpline offers you expert advice, when you need it most and for a fraction of what you'd expect it to cost.

•Practical Internet has launched an expert helpline service which you can call for instant solutions on any of your Internet hardware and software problems. Whatever the problem, no matter how large or small, our team of dedicated experts will be on hand to offer you instant help, where you need it most, at home.

•No Call Waiting

You only pay for the technical help you receive – there is no queuing system. So in the unlikely event of the helpline being busy when you call up, you don't get connected and you don't even pay.

•Free Call Back

If engaged, you can always use the helpline's answer service to receive a free call back at a later time.

•Limited Call Duration

If your problem is complicated and is going to take a long time to solve, you can leave it with our engineers and you can call us later for the solution.

•Complete Money Back Guarantee

If you are not completely satisfied with the solution given to you by our engineers, fax us your complaint (fax: 01753 755930) and we will give you your money back.

For complete solutions to all your Internet software and hardware problems call us now on

0906 466 44 87

Our team of experts are waiting to help you.

0906 466 44 87



**HELPLINE OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK
7AM – 11PM**

Please note that the Practical Internet helpline is not able to deal with faulty cover CD enquiries.

Your call to the Practical Internet Helpline is charged at £1.50 per minute (premium rate). Each call you make will show up on your standard telephone bill.

x-stream
BT Click
Network

free ser

uk

THEY'RE
FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE...

116

4the Net
Aardvark
Abel
Arsenal
Barclays
bigwig
Breathe
breWorld
BT Click.com
CallNet
ConnectFree
contactbox
Currantbun.com
Dabsol
Egg
Freenetname
Free4All
Free for Life
Free Internet
Freeola

118

FreeNet
Free-Online
Freeserve
Freewire
FreeUK
FreeZone
In fin net
Internet Life
IXUK
LineOne
Localtel
Madasafish
Ministry of Sound
My ISP
NetDirect
Public Online
SoftNET FREE
Sniff Out
Tiny
Telinco

120

TescoNET
The Link
themail
themutual.net
Totalise
UK Fantastic
UK Online
Virgin Net
Webtribe
WH Smith
Xoom
X-Stream
Yahoo! Online

0800 ISPS

24/7 Freecall
CallNet 0800
Freedom
Freecall UK
StrayDuck
SMI FreeNet

120

115

Free
for all!

There are so many free ISPs, we wanted to make sure you weren't missing out. So here's the definitive guide to the top providers. Let us know what you think of them

Over the last year, a bewildering array of free service providers has sprung up and it seems more are arriving by the hour. So how do you choose between them? To give you a helping hand, we've listed the vital info to give you a better idea of what they offer.

Many of the free ISPs make their money by receiving a small percentage of the phone charges from BT, so it's in their interests to get you online quickly and keep you there. The cost of the tech support phone lines is a crucial factor if you're a newcomer to the Net, and prices range from the cost of a national call to a painful £1 a minute.

Unless we've stated otherwise, the ISPs listed here offer access to the Internet at local call rates throughout the UK.

If you intend to use email regularly, it's a good idea to choose an ISP that provides POP3, rather than Web-based, mail. With POP3 mail you can collect and send your mail quickly and then log off the Net to read and reply offline.

On the other hand, Web-based

email is very useful if you need to be able to check your email from different PCs. If you can get both from your service provider – even better.

But although a provider may look good on paper, a crucial factor is how reliable and fast it is. After all, there's no point in having an unlimited amount of Web space and email addresses for every nickname you've ever had, if you're faced with engaged tones every time you try to connect. So once you've narrowed your selection down to a few that look good, try them out. Some ISPs allow online sign-up, which means you could have your account in a few minutes. And most of the ISPs will run happily alongside each other, so feel free to have a few in your Dial-up Networking box. You can use a program like AnySpeed to compare the ISPs' connections speeds. If you're paying good money for a traditional ISP, you could have one or two free ISPs as emergency backup. And if your free accounts prove reliable and fast, perhaps it's time to ditch that old paid-for service.

The free ISP business is moving so quickly that it can be hard to keep up, so learn from other Net users' by checking out the alt.internet.providers.uk.free newsgroup, which currently gets around a dozen postings a day. And if your free ISP doesn't carry this newsgroup, try another – it's a free lunch.

TOPTIP

If you want to know more about your free ISP, try using Neotrace (<http://www.neoworx.com>). You'll find out what backbone supplier it is using and the route that your Web requests take.

INFO

If you just can't get enough of free Internet service providers, there are a number of online resources that can help you find new providers. Try Net for Nowt at <http://www.n4n.co.uk/>.

Free for all!

DABSOL

		Is there an initial set-up fee?	What modem protocols do you support?	How many email addresses do I get?	And what about newsgroups?	Do I get Web space?
	4the Net www.4thenet.co.uk General enquires: 0870 740 1616	No	56K Flex, 64K and 128K ISDN, V.90, 28.8, 33.6 and 56k modems	There's a free email account	Free newsgroup access	You can bathe in unlimited Web space, so long as it's for personal use
	ardvaak www.aardvaak.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90, and ISDN at 64 and 128kbps	None. You'll have to take advantage of a Web-based email firm such as Hotmail (www.hotmail.com)	None of those either, unfortunately	You're out of luck – there's no space
	Abel Gratis www.abelgratis.com General enquires: 0906 680 4444	No	K56, V.90, x2, ISDN64 and ISDN 128	UK's First Multi choice email domain address provider with unlimited addresses, all free	There's access to over 40,000 popular newsgroups	You receive a huge 50Mb of Web space for both home and business use, with your own host name
	Arsenal www.arsenal.co.uk General enquires: 0171 704 2020	No	K56Flex and V.90 are supported, but not x2. There's also single user 64kbps ISDN	You can have up to five separate POP3 accounts	There are "loads of newsgroups," we're told	You get 5Mb of space, which you are free to use for business
	Barclays www.barclays.co.uk General enquires: 0171 699 5000	No	K56Flex and V.90 are supported, but you're out of luck if you have an ISDN	Barclays gives you five email accounts with your service	You can access all the usual newsgroups	There's no Web space provided at the moment
	bigwig www.bigwig.net General enquires: 0870 740 1033	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. Also ISDN at 64 and 128kbps	Seven POP3 accounts, each with up to 1,000 aliases, as well as IMAP email	There's access to about 25,000 newsgroups, and about five devoted to bigwig	You get 15Mb of space. Business use is allowed
	breathe net www.breathe.co.uk/breathenet General enquires: 0800 500150	No	K56Flex and V.90, but not x2. There's also 64kbps ISDN	Five separate POP3 accounts	There's almost full Usenet access – only extreme newsgroups are censored	When you join breathe net, you get 10Mb of Web space available, but it's not for business use
	BT ClickFree www.btclickfree.com General enquires: 0800 731 7887	No	ClickFree supports K56Flex, but not x2 or V.90. There's also ISDN access at 64kbps	Unlimited. And both Web-based and POP3 mailboxes are now available	No, there's no news server	There's no Web space either
	breWorld www.breworld.net General enquires: 0181 565 4279	No	The service supports K56Flex and V.90 modems	breWorld supplies five email addresses with your account	You have access to the Web's newsgroups, as well as specialised beer groups	You get 5Mb of space, but this can only be used for non-commercial use
	CallNet www.callnetuk.com General enquires: 0171 335 8300	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90, and 128kbps ISDN	You get five email addresses	There's "full Usenet access"	You get 20Mb of space. Unfortunately, business use is not allowed
	Connect Free www.connectfree.net General enquires: 0870 742 1111	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. And you can get connected at 64 and 128kbps using ISDN	Unlimited POP3 addresses	There's access to about 28,000	Yes, there's free Web space available
	Contact Box www.contactbox.co.uk General enquires: 0870 740 4404	No	K56 Flex, X2, V.90, 64k and 128k ISDN	There's unlimited POP3 email addresses	There are over 30,000 newsgroups available	There's 25Mb of free Web space for personal or business use
	Bun.com www.bun.com General enquires: 0845 306 3636	No	The usual K56Flex and V.90 models	Bun.com customers can revel in unlimited email addresses	There are loads of them, too	Subscribers will get 25Mb of free Web space
	Dabsol www.dabsol.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	x2, V.90 and ISDN at 64kbps are supported	Five password-protected POP3 accounts, and unlimited aliases	There are about 34,000, and eight or nine newsgroups specific to Dabsol	There's unlimited Web space which can be used for business
	Egg www.egg.com General enquires: 0845 123 3233	No	56k, V.90, 56K Flex and 64K ISDN	There are five free email accounts on offer	You can access in excess of 25,000 newsgroups	Yes, there's 10Mb of free Web space included in the package
	Freenetname http://www.freenetname.co.uk General enquires: 0800 376 6910	No	K56Flex and V.90	You get unlimited email addresses attached to your freenetname service or your free domain name	There's free access to all the usual newsgroups	You get 20Mb of Web space
	Free4All www.free4all.co.uk General enquires: 01303 775500	No	x2 and V.90, but not K56Flex. And ISDN at 64 and 128kbps	Unlimited POP3 accounts	Users have access to about 45,000 newsgroups, and two devoted to Free4All	There's 10Mb up for grabs, which you can use for business
	Free for Life www.freeforlife.co.uk General enquires: 01908 378 999	Yes, there's a £30 charge for the CD and administration	K56Flex and x2 are supported. You can also use the speedy 128kbps ISDN	None	There's no news server	You're out of luck. There's no Web space either
	The Free Internet www.thefreeinternet.net General enquires: No number	No	K56, V.90, ISDN	You get free unlimited email addresses	Yes, there's newsgroup access	Just 5Mb on offer here
	Freeola http://freeola.com General enquires: 01279 321 321	No	ISDN up to 128, V.90	As many as you want and you get to choose from over 750 domain names	Full newsgroup coverage	There's 25Mb of space using your favourite email address as the URL

If I get stuck, who do I call?	Can I get help by email or looking at your Web site?	Is there Mac technical support?	If I don't use my account, will it be disconnected?	How do I get my account?	Can I sign up at your Web site?	Do you require caller line identification?
The helpdesk is open 24-hours a day. Phone 0906 960 4343. Calls are charged at £1 a minute	There's no online help, but you can email queries to admin@4thenet.co.uk	There are plans for Mac support	You won't be disconnected	You will soon be able to get the software via floppy disc or CD	Yes	No
There's no number for tech support – this is strictly a service for people who know what they're doing	There's no email help. The Web page contains details on how to set up Dial-up Networking connection	Again, there's no technical support	Yes, after 30 days	Sign up at the Web page	Yes	Yes
The tech support line (0906 680 4444)	You can get help by email and from the Web address or by phone	Yes you can, and Abel also provide Amiga software	Yes, after three months	All you have to do is phone 0906 680 4444 for the software	Yes	No, you don't need it
The tech line (0906 553 5209) is open 9am to 10pm, seven days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute	You can get email help – you should get a next day reply. There are FAQs on the Web page	The CD doesn't contain Mac software, but the tech support line can assist you	Yes, after 60 days	You can get the Arsenal CD by phoning 0171 704 2020, or by popping into the Gunners' shop.	Yes	Yes
There are plans for technical support, but as yet, the number is unavailable.	There will be support available online	Mac users will have to wait a little while	No	To get an account, you can phone 0800 494949 to be sent an installation CD	Yes	No
Dial 0906 960 2415. It's open 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Calls cost £1 per minute	Email support takes 24 hours, or up to 2.5 days for complex queries. The site also contains info	You can access Mac software from the CD, and the tech support team provides support for Macs	Yes, after 90 days	Get the CD by ringing 0870 740 1033. The CD contains IE 4.01, Netscape 4, and some Mac software	Yes	Yes
Call 09067 112209. It's open 24-hours, seven days a week. Calls cost 50p a minute	Yes, there's email help with a 24-hour response time. The Web page contains tutorials	Mac software should be available and tech support will be able to help with any Mac problems	Yes, after 30 days, but this policy is not strictly enforced	Ring 0800 783 7439 or go to the site. The CD contains IE 4, Outlook Express and a Net guide	No, you need the CD	No
Call 0906 302 0240, open from 8 am to midnight, seven days a week. Calls charged at 50p per minute	The Web site has an FAQ list and you can email for help	Yes, you can – once the Mac software is available, which should be this month	No	Download the ClickFree software from the Web site or call 0800 731 7887 for a CD	Yes	Yes
You will get free technical support, the details of which you'll get when you sign up	Yes, if you email info@breworld.net but there's no help at the Web site	No, Mac users are out of luck	No	Buy Taste magazine, pick up CDs from selected Old Speckled Hen outlets, or apply for a CD at the site	No, you need the CD	No
The number is 0906 690 3300, 24-hours, seven days a week. Calls are charged at national rate	There's email help. CallNet aims to reply the same day. The Web site contains some details	Yes	No	To get the CD visit the Web site or give the tech support number a ring. The CD contains IE 4	Yes	No
The 0890 900 0050 number is open 24-hours, seven days a week. The calls are 50p per minute	Yes, there's email help. You can also find helpful information for PCs and Macs on the Web page	Yes, you can	No	There's no CD available, so just go to the Web page and sign up	Yes	Yes
You can call technical support on 0906 960 5958. Calls are charged at £1 per minute	There is a comprehensive Help section. Support is available via support@contactbox.co.uk	Yes, there's also a Mac help section on the Web site	You don't get disconnected, but your free number is subject to a minimum usage of 19 mins per month	You can request a CD by phoning 0870 740 4404	Yes	Yes
0845 660171 for an automated service at local rates. 0900 9191928 for a person at 50p per minute	You can get help from the site. You can also email for help	Yes, there's Mac support	No	Call 0845 306 3636 to be sent the CD	No, you need the CD	No
0890 994 0000 (7am to midnight) 49p per minute from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 39p other times	You'll get an email reply within three days. The site has details on set ups for PCs and Macs and email	There's no over-the-phone help	Yes, after 30 days	There should be a CD by the time you read this, or just sign up at the Web page	Yes	Yes
You can call the technical support line on 0900 290 9114. Calls are charged at 50p per minute	Yes, email support is available, and there's a FAQ section on the Web site	Mac users can be guided through the registration process by calling 0171 670 1173	Yes, after 30 days	You can call Egg and register for a free CD. The number is 0845 123 3233	Yes	No
Freephone 0800 376 6920 24-hours a day, 365 days a year	Yes to both	Yes you can	Only if it's not used for more than 90 days	You can sign up online or call 0800 376 6910 to order a CD	Yes and you can also register your free domain name online	Yes
Call 0845 301 1670, 8am to 12 midnight, seven days a week. It's a local rate number	You can get email help. The Web page contains info for dial-up connections, Mac info and FAQs	Yes, there is support	No	Sign up online or phone 01303 775500	Yes, visit www.free4all.co.uk	No
Support can be reached on 01908 377707, 9am to 9pm. Calls are charged at national call rates	Yes, you should get an email reply within 24-hours.	Yes, they have Macs at tech support	There's no definite policy	Ring the sales team on 01908 378 999 for the CD or order over the Web site.	Yes	Yes
Phone 0845 0800 836. Calls charged at local rate	Technical support is available through both email and the Web site	Basic Mac technical support is available	No	Sign up online or call 0208 636 7377 for a CD	Yes	No
You can phone support on 0845 301 1671	You can get help from the Web site or from support@freeola.co.uk	Yes	Yes, after three months	Ring 01279 321321 for a CD	Yes	No

Free for all!

DA SOL

		Is there an initial set-up fee?	What modem protocols do you support?	How many email addresses do I get?	And what about newsgroups?	Do I get Web space?
	FreeNet www.freenet.co.uk General enquires: Ring tech support	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. And there's 64 and 128kbps ISDN	Unlimited POP3 mail accounts	There's access to around 30-35,000 newsgroups	You get 25Mb for personal or business use
	Free-Online www.free-online.net General enquires: 0870 7060 504	No	x2 and V.90, but not K56Flex. You can also use ISDN at 64kbps	Unlimited POP3 accounts	32,000, but there are plans to expand this to 56-57,000. Five newsgroups devoted to Free-Online	Unlimited space – you get a 100Mb chunk at first, but when you fill it up, you can get another chunk
	Freemove www.freemove.co.uk General enquires: 0990 500049	No	Freemove supports V.90. K56Flex and x2 modems will get 33kbps. Customers can use ISDN at 128kbps	Unlimited POP3 email addresses	There's access to about 31,000 newsgroups. There are about 19 devoted to Freemove	There's 15Mb of space to be had. Business use is allowed
	FreeUK www.freeuk.com General enquires: 0845 3555 555	No	Only V.90 is supported, so you'll be connecting at a maximum of 33.6k. There's also 64kbps ISDN access	Unlimited POP3 addresses	There's access to about 37,000, and there are four devoted to FreeUK	There's 25Mb of Web space. Business use is allowed
	Freewire www.freewire.net General enquires: No number	No	Anything up to V.90 is supported	You will receive unlimited email accounts	Currently there are around 40,000 newsgroups for you to enjoy	There's a whopping 50Mb of Web space available to you
	FreeZone www.freezone.co.uk General enquires: 0870 744 1111	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. And ISDN at 64 and 128kbps	Unlimited POP3 mail	There's access to over 30,000 newsgroups. There are none specific to FreeZone	You get 20Mb of space. Business use is allowed
	in fin net www.infinet.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90	Unlimited email addresses with five mailboxes per address	There's access to over 30,000 newsgroups.	You get 20Mb of Web space
	Internet Lite www.cwc.net General enquires: 0800 092 3013	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. For serious speed freaks, there's ISDN access at 128kbps	You get five email addresses	There's access to about 20,000, including three specific to Internet Lite	There's 20Mb free space for you to be creative in
	IXUK www.ixuk.com General enquires: No number	No	9600kps right up to 56K (V.90). 64k and 128K ISDN lines are also supported	You get unlimited addresses on a single POP3 email account	There's access to newsgroups	There's 20Mb for you to play around with
	LineOne www.lineone.net General enquires: 0800 111210	No	K56Flex and V.90 are supported, as well as x2. ISDN are also supported	You are allowed anything up to five email addresses	LineOne users have full access to newsgroups	You get 10Mb of Web space
	The Link www.thelink.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	n/a	No	No	No
	Localtel www.localtel.co.uk General enquires: 0800 376 5261	No	K56Flex and V.90	Unlimited POP3 addresses	There should be newsgroups, but the exact number still has to be finalised	There will be 20Mb of Web space, but it won't be available for business use
	Madasafish www.madasafish.com General enquires: 0800 0273 373	No	Up to V.90 and ISDN	You can enjoy unlimited email addresses	Yes, there are newsgroups available – the number currently stands at 35,000	For all you home page enthusiasts out there, you can enjoy an unlimited amount of Web space
	Ministry of Sound www.ministryofsound.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56Flex and V.90 are supported	You can enjoy unlimited email addresses, each with the domain name of ministryofsound.net	There are no specific newsgroups	Customers will receive 20Mb of Web space for personal use
	themutual.net www.themutual.net General enquires: No number	No	K56 Flex, V.90 and 64K ISDN	You get five POP3 email accounts	Yes, there's access to newsgroups but it is "outsourced"	You get 25Mb of Web space to exploit
	My ISP www.my-isp.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56, V.90 and ISDN	You get unlimited email addresses	Yes, you get newsgroup access	There's 20Mb to go at
	NetDirect OnLine www.netdirect-online.co.uk General enquires: 0800 731 3311	No	K56Flex, x2, V.90 and up to 128Kbps	You get unlimited amount of email addresses, and you also get a sub-domain	There's no news server at the present	Customers will receive 20Mb of Web space
	Netscape Online www.netscapeonline.co.uk General enquires: 0901 900 9000	No	V.90, x2 and ISDN (V120)	Unlimited POP3 email addresses	27,000 Newsgroups are provided.	You get 20Mb.
	SoftNET FREE www.softnetfree.co.uk General enquires: 0800 035 5355	No	K56Flex and V.90, but not x2. There's ISDN access at 64k	An unlimited number of POP3 addresses	There's access to over 32,000 newsgroups, and there are two specifically for SoftNET FREE	There's 10Mb to play with. Business use is allowed
	Sniff Out www.sniffout.net General enquires: 01883 742510	No	All current modem protocols. 64K and 128K ISDN are also supported	You can have unlimited email addresses with an option to have different passwords for each	There's currently access to over 55,000 newsgroups	You get 20Mb of Web space with automated page preparation facility available, if required

If I get stuck, who do I call?	Can I get help by email or looking at your Web site?	Is there Mac technical support?	If I don't use my account, will it be disconnected?	How do I get my account?	Can I sign up at your Web site?	Do you require caller line identification?
08700 722622. National call rates. Lines open 9am to 6pm Mon to Sat and 10am to 5.30pm on Sun	Yes, there's help via email. The Web page contains details of settings and a DUN walkthrough	There's no specific technical support for Macs. It is coming soon	No	There's no CD, so sign up at the Web page	Yes	No
Call 0890 998 8776 between 7am-midnight. It costs 39p/minute off peak, 49p/minute peak	There's email help - you should get a reply in 24 hours. The Web page contains info	There's a page on the Web site telling you how to get online with a Mac	Yes, after 30 days	Ring 0870 706 0504 for a CD containing the software	Yes	Yes
Call 0839 517517, open 24-hours, seven days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute	There are nine different email addresses, each covering a specific type of problem.	No	After 30 days the account is suspended, but the user has 10 days to reactivate their account	The CD can be picked up from Dixons, Currys, PC World and The Link.	No, you have to use the CD	Yes
Telephone support is at 0845 3555 555, open 24-hours, seven days a week	Email help is available and the site contains details on setting ups, using FTP, and a guide to DUN	There's a Mac set-up wizard on the Web page, and FreeUK will try to help with Mac connections	Yes, after 90 days	There's no CD, so go to the Web page and sign up	Yes	Yes
If you are having problems, you can contact the technical support staff on 0906 716 0550	Yes, you can get free email help	Unfortunately, there's no support for Mac users, although the service is available to Mac users	You won't be disconnected	If you want an account, you sign up at the Web site - http://www.freewire.net	Yes	No, but may change
The tech support number is 0906 300 1111, open 9am to 10pm. It costs 50p per minute	No email help and the site was very basic. As the service is so new, this could well change	Freezone intends to provide info on its Web pages	You won't be disconnected	Ring 0870 744 1111 for a CD containing IE 4.01	Yes	No
Telephone support will soon be available	Yes, there's a support section on the Web site as well as details of the email support	Not at the moment, but there are plans to introduce Mac support soon	Yes, after 30 days	You sign up online. Visit the in fin net Web site at http://www.infinnet.co.uk	Yes you can. Simply phone 0845 301 1504 to get all the details for setting up Dial-up Networking	No
Call tech support on 0870 908 8891. It's open 24-hours, calls are charged at the national call rate	No conventional email support, but if you email, you receive an email saying that they will phone you	No	No	Ring 0800 092 3013 for the CD	No	No
You can contact the tech support desk on 0906 690 3315. Calls are charged at 50p a minute	Yes there is thorough online support available, that should answer any of your questions	Unfortunately, there's no specialised Mac support	No	You don't have to worry about getting a CD, the only way to set up an account is online	Yes	No
The tech support line (0906 302 0100) is open around the clock. It will cost you 50p per minute	Yes, you can benefit from email support. Send your queries to support@lineone.net	Yes, you can get Macintosh support	No	Get the connectivity software by calling 0800 111 210	Yes	No
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Take a trip along to The Link's Web site	Yes, you can	n/a
Call the support number, open 8am to 9pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 6pm over the weekend	Significant help is planned	There will only really be help to get connected	No	Ring 0800 376 5261 to get the CD	No, the only way that you can connect is by getting hold of the CD	No
You can phone technical support on 01851 777727. Calls are charged at national rates	Yes, email and Web site support is available	Yes, there is Mac support	Yes, after six months	If you'd like to phone for a CD to join the service, call 0800 0273 373	Yes	Yes
Call 0906 676 7678. It will cost you 50p a minute	Yes, there is email support available	Yes, there is Mac support available on the Web pages	You won't be disconnected	If you want to sign up you will need a copy of the Ministry magazine. This comes with a CD-ROM	No, the only way is by using the CD	No
Ring 0906 300 3366 between 8am and 9.30pm. It costs 75p per minute though	All emails will be answered within 48 hours. There's also plenty of help available on the Web site	There is currently limited Mac technical support, but this will improve	No	Go to the Web site and follow the instructions	Yes	No
Give the techies a buzz on 0906 671 0020. Calls cost 50p per minute	Yes. If you get stuck, send an email to support@myisp.plc.uk	n/a	n/a	Go to the My ISP Web site and you're half way there	Yes	n/a
There's 24 hour technical support available. The number is 0870 166 5555 charged at National Rate	There is email support and help on the Web site. Go to http://www.support.netdirect-online.co.uk	Yes, there is Mac support available on the Web pages	Yes, after 90 days	Yes, go to www.instant.ndo.com	Yes	Yes
Call 0901 900 9000. It's open 24 hours every day. Calls cost 50p/minute	Tech support is offered online through Netscape Online's Web site.	No	Yes, after 60 days.	Order the CD	No	Yes
Call 0890 120 4000, open 8am to 8pm and 9am to 5pm over the weekend, cost 60p per minute	There's email help which aims to reply in a couple of hours. The site contains FAQs and a glossary	No, you're out of luck	Yes, after 30 days	Get hold of the CD via the Web site, or by ringing 0870 727444. The CD contains IE 4	Yes	Yes
The tech support line (01883 742510) is open 24/7 Calls are charged at normal national rate	There is full email support at support@sniffout.co.uk . The site also has illustrated help pages	Technical support for Macs is provided	No	Telephone 01883 742510 or email support@sniffout.co.uk for a CD-ROM	Yes	No

Free for all!

	Is there an initial set-up fee?	What modem protocols do you support?	How many email addresses do I get?	And what about newsgroups?	Do I get Web space?
 Tiny www.tinyonline.net General enquires: 0800 821333	No	Up to V.90, ISDN at 64K, and up to Flex V.34 33.3K	There are five separate email addresses	There are over 25,000 newsgroups available	There's 15Mb of Web space supplied for you to do what you will with it
 Telinco www.telinco.co.uk General enquires: 0800 542 0800	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. There's also 128kbps ISDN access	There's an unlimited number of POP3 aliases to be had	Telinco provides access to the most frequently used groups	You get 5Mb of Web space. If you want to use it for business, that's OK
 TescoNet www.tesco.net General enquires: 0345 225533	No	K56Flex, but not x2. TescoNet was aiming to have V.90. There's also ISDN at 64kbps	Five POP3 accounts	There's access to 30,000 newsgroups, but no newsgroups especially for TescoNet users	There's 10Mb of free Web space, which can be used for business
 themail www.themail.co.uk General enquires: 01424 830 907	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90. And there's ISDN access at 64kbps	One POP3 account. You may receive advertisements in your email	It doesn't have own news server. It provides pointers to the free news servers on the Web	There's 30Mb of space available
 Totalise www.totalise.net General enquires: 0800 542 7566	No	K56, V90, 128K ISDN and BT Home Highway	You get unlimited Web-based and POP3 email addresses	Newsgroup access comes as part of the service	You can have up to 50Mb of free Web space
 UK Fantastic www.ukfantastic.net General enquires: 0702 1104458	No	K56Flex, x2 and V.90 are supported. You can also use 128kbps ISDN	Unlimited POP3 addresses	About 18,000	There is 5Mb on offer, and there are plans to offer unlimited space. You can use it for business
 UK Online www.ukonline.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56Flex and V.90 are supported, as well as single and dual ISDN	Unlimited email addresses	UK Online only carry newsgroups that are not illegal or that carry pornographic content	You will get unlimited Web space with your account
 Virgin Net www.virgin.net General enquires: 0845 650 0000	No	56Kbps, x2 and V.90	You get five email addresses	No newsgroups, only chat areas and noticeboards	You get 10Mb of Web space
 Webtribe www.webtribe.net General enquires: See Web site	No	V.90, K56 Flex and most protocols below 33.6. Single and dual channel ISDN are also supported	There's one email address, but no limit on additional mailboxes	There's access to a full news feed.	Yes, you get 10Mb Web space, and an address of http://www.webtribe.net/firstletterofusername/username
 WH Smith www.whsmith.co.uk General enquires: 0171 409 3222	No	K56Flex but not V.90 or x2. there's also ISDN access at 64kbps	Unlimited, and both Web-based and POP3 mailboxes are available	There's no news server	There's no Web space, either
 Xoom www.xoom.net General enquires: 01483 417633	No	K56Flex. Others are currently being added	Unlimited. Currently it's Web-based email, but POP3 should be available in the near future	There's Web-based news service available, but there's no separate news server at this time	There's unlimited free Web space, for personal and commercial use. There's also free software
 X-Stream www.x-stream.com General enquires: 0800 358 5678	No	K56 Flex and V.90, but not x2 or ISDN	You get one POP3 email account	There's no news server, and no newsgroups dealing specifically with the X-Stream Network	There's 20Mb of Web space on offer with the X-Stream Network. It can be used for business if you want
 Yahoo! Online www.yahoo.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56 Flex	You have unlimited addresses and use the Yahoo! Mail service	There's no news server	15Mb of space from Geocities

0800 ISPs

Freephone Net access is here! Check out who's offering what

	Is there an initial set-up fee?	What modem protocols do you support?	How many email addresses do I get?	And what about newsgroups?	Do I get Web space?
 24/7 Freecall www.24-7freecall.co.uk General enquires: No number	No, but there's a £24.70 monthly subscription fee. Or sign up for a year for £247	K56 Flex, V.90, X2, 64K and 128K ISDN	Subscribers get five POP3 email accounts	Yes, there's newsgroup access	Sure do. There's 10Mb to utilise
 CallNet 0800 www.callnet0800.co.uk General enquires: 0800 058 0800	No	K56 Flex, V.90 and ISDN	You get one POP3 or Web-based email account, and unlimited addresses	Yes, you get newsgroup access	There's 20Mb to play with
 Freedom www.freedomi.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	56K, V.90, 64K ISDN	You get five POP3 email accounts	You get access to "all the usual newsgroups" as well as some specific to Freedom	There's 15Mb for you
 Freecall UK www.freecall-uk.co.uk General enquires: No number	There's a £6 one-off charge	K56 Flex, V90, 64/128K ISDN	You get five POP3 email accounts	Yes, you get newsgroup access	Yes, there's free Web space
 Strayduck www.strayduck.com General enquires: 0845 660 9000	No	K56 Flex, X2, V.90, 128K ISDN	You get one POP3 email account and unlimited addresses	You get access to about 25,000 newsgroups	There's a whopping 25Mb of Web space to fill up
 SMI FreeNet www.smi-group.co.uk General enquires: No number	No	K56, V.90, ISDN	n/a	n/a	You get unlimited Web space



If I get stuck, who do I call?	Can I get help by email or looking at your Web site?	Is there Mac technical support?	If I don't use my account, will it be disconnected?	How do I get my account?	Can I sign up at your Web site?	Do you require caller line identification?
Pre-installed customers call 02193 821222. Other customers call 0900 290 9103 (50p a minute)	Yes, there are FAQs on the Web site	A Mac CD will be available soon	Yes, after 30 days	Either from a disc, or from a pre-installed drive in new Tiny PCs. You can also request a disc online	It will be available soon	Yes
Call 0906 960 0960. It's open 8am to 9pm, and will set you back £1 per minute	Yes, there is email support and help on the Web page	Yes, you can get support	Yes, after 90 days	Get the CD by ringing 0800 542 0800	Yes	No
Call 0906 8020 111. It's open from 8am to midnight. Calls cost 50p per minute	Yes, there's email help. The Web site contains info about managing your account	Yes, TescoNet supports Macs	Yes, after 30 days	Get a CD from Tesco or ring 0345 225533	Yes, all the details you need are online, but you must have a Tesco Clubcard	Yes
There was no telephone support at the time of writing, but it was planned for March	Yes, email help should reply the same day. The Web page some help	The site contains info on how to get connected	Yes, after 60 days	A CD should be available in March, or you can sign up on the Web page	Yes	No
Call 0800 542 7566 - for free!	Yes. Send an email to support@totalise.net. There's also help on the Web site	Yes, there's full Mac support	No, not currently	By registering at www.totalise.net	Yes	No, not at the moment
Call 0906 960 2472, open 24-hours, seven days a week. The calls cost £1 per minute	You should get an email reply in a couple of hours. The site contains set ups for Windows 95/98 and Macs	There's telephone support to get you online	Yes, after 60 days, but this policy is not yet being enforced	There's no CD, so just go to the Web site	Yes you can, but you'd need to ring up for the settings	Yes
You can either opt to pay £4.70 a month for unlimited tech support or pay 25p a minute	Email help is available on support@ukonline.co.uk	Yes	Accounts always remain on the database	You can contact UK Online from the Web site	Yes	No
Call 0845 650 0000 24hrs (£1 per minute) or you can pay £5.99 a month for a local call rate subscription	The site has solutions for common problems or email for help by contacting support@virgin.net	Yes	You won't get disconnected	Go to the Virgin Net Web site (http://www.virgin.net) and register online or phone 0500 558800	Yes	Yes
There's no technical support by phone	Yes, tech support is done via email. Any good questions received will also be put on the site	Instructions are currently being written	Under discussion	You can request a CD from the site	Yes	No
The help desk number is 0906 302 0240 and is open from 8am to midnight (50p a minute)	Yes	Once the Mac software is available	You won't get disconnected	You can buy a disk for 50p. Proceeds go to fund the company's community work in the field of literacy	Yes	Yes
Phone on the normal number, which is not premium rate	Yes	No	You won't get disconnected	Visit the Web site at http://www.xoom.net and follow the instructions	Yes	Yes
The number's 0900 901 1000, open 24-hours, seven days a week. Calls cost 50p per minute	Yes, you should get a reply within 24 hours. The Web page contains FAQs and info on configuring software	No	You won't get disconnected	The X-Stream Network provides a CD. Get it by ringing 0870 730 6466. You can also sign up online	Yes, you can download the X-Stream software from the Web site	No
Call between 8am and midnight seven days a week, the number is 0906 302 1200 (50p per min)	Yes, there are a series a frequently asked questions on the site	No	You won't get disconnected	Sign up online or by getting a CD from HMV and Waterstones	Yes	Yes

If I get stuck, who do I call?	Can I get help by email or looking at your Web site?	Is there Mac technical support?	If I don't use my account, will it be disconnected?	How do I get my account?	Can I sign up at your Web site?	Do you require caller line identification?
The service is yet to launch, but you will get your first five technical support calls free	Yes, you will be able to	n/a	n/a	Go to 24-7Freecall's Web site. Or pick up a CD	Yes	n/a
Call 0906 100 1604. It costs 50p per minute	There's email support at support@callnet0800.com	n/a	n/a	Ring 0800 058 0800 or go to CallNet's Web site	Yes you can	n/a
The ISP hasn't launched yet, but tech support will be 24/7	Yes	It will be PC-only at first but Mac support is planned	Accounts that are unused for two months will be cancelled	You can pre-register on the Freedomi Web site	Yes	No
You can call tech support on 0901 0204 999. Calls cost 25p per minute	Email help is available from support@freecall-uk.co.uk	n/a	n/a	Go to the Web site and follow the instructions	Yes you can	n/a
Ring 0906 916 900. Calls charged at local rate	Email ducksupport@strayduck.com. There is also a technical support page on the Web site	No	No	Sign up online or get a CD by calling 0845 542 5454	Yes, you can indeed	Yes
The service is yet to launch, so there's no number yet	n/a	n/a	n/a	For the latest information, go to the Web site	n/a	n/a

Glossary: complete &

PRACTICAL INTERNET takes the techno-babble out of the Net and turns it

ActiveX

Microsoft's programming language that downloads and runs programs on your computer's own hard drive. ActiveX technology is used with Microsoft Internet Explorer to make interactive Web pages that look and behave like computer programs, rather than static pages. With ActiveX, users can ask or answer questions, use push buttons, and interact in many other ways with the Web page.

Anchor

In HyperText Markup Language (HTML), an anchor is the establishing of a term, phrase, image, or other information object.

Applet

A small Java program that can be embedded in an HTML page.

Attachment

A file which is included along with an email message.

Backbone

A backbone is a larger transmission line that carries data which is gathered from smaller lines that interconnect with it.

Bandwidth

This refers to the amount of data that can be sent through a given communications circuit in a given amount of time. In general, greater bandwidth means a faster transfer of data from one point to another on the Internet.

BBS

This stands for Bulletin Board System, which is a computerised meeting and announcement system. It allows people to carry on discussions, upload and download files, and make announcements without the people being connected to the computer at the same time.

Bookmarks

The name given to Web sites which are 'marked' for future reference in Netscape Navigator. Also known as 'Favorites' in Internet Explorer.

Boolean

The term 'boolean,' often encountered when doing searches on the Web, refers to a system of logical thought developed by the English mathematician and computer pioneer, George Boole (1815-64). In boolean searching, an 'and' operator between two words or other values (for example, 'pear AND apple') means one is searching for documents containing both of the words or values, not just one of

them. An 'or' operator between two words or other values (for example, 'pear OR apple') means one is searching for documents containing either of the words.

Client/Server

Client/Server describes the relationship between two computer programs in which one program, the client, makes a service request from another program, the server.

Cookie

Data that a Web server gives to a browser the first time the user visits the site. This is then updated with each return visit. The server saves the information the cookie contains about the user. The user's browser does the same - as a text file stored in the Netscape or Explorer system folder.

CU-SeeMe

CU-SeeMe is a product for Internet videoconferencing. Each user installs the CU-SeeMe software, allowing them to have person-to-person or group discussions. Users with a small attached video camera (optional) can transmit their picture to other users in a conference.

Disk cache

A disk cache is a mechanism for improving the time it takes to read from or write to a hard disk. The disk cache holds data that has recently been read and, in some cases, adjacent data areas that are likely to be accessed next.

DNS

Domain Name Server or Domain Name System. This converts an address such as <http://www.paragon.co.uk> into an IP (Internet Protocol) number, such as 194.72.242.3.

Dynamic HTML

Dynamic HTML is a collective term for a combination of new HyperText Markup Language (HTML) tags and options, style sheets, and programming that will let you create Web pages that are more animated and responsive to user interaction than previous versions of HTML. Dynamic HTML can allow Web documents to look and act like desktop applications or multimedia productions.

Flame

Abusive messages which are sent by email or posted to a newsgroup in response to daft comments.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol. The method which is usually used for trans-

fering files across the Internet. There are separate FTP programs available, although much of it is now done over the Web.

GIF

Graphics Interchange Format. A format for saving images so they can be 'seen' by a Web browser. GIF was developed in 1987 by giant US service provider CompuServe.

Gopher

Gopher is an Internet application protocol in which file structures that are organised according to hierarchy, are maintained on servers that are also part of an overall information structure. Gopher provided a way to bring text files from all over the world to a viewer on your computer.

Host

A computer on a network, sometimes referring to computers that offer services to other computers, such as running a Web service or database.

HTML

HyperText Markup Language. The universal language of the Web in which all pages are written. Official versions of HTML are defined by the W3 Consortium, which is at <http://www.w3.org>.

HTTP

HyperText Transfer Protocol. This is the protocol that's used to carry traffic between a Web browser's computer and the Web site.

Imagemap

In Web page development, an imagemap is a graphic image that is defined so a user can click on different areas of the image and be linked to different destinations. You make an imagemap by defining each of the sensitive areas in terms of their X and Y coordinates. With each set of coordinates, you specify a URL or Web address that will be linked to when the user clicks on that area. Imagemaps are used widely on many Web sites as a more adventuresome form of main menu.

Intelligent Agent

A software routine that uses 'intelligence' to do an assigned task. For example, searching through the Web for pages that match your personal tastes.

Intranet

A (usually) private network which is only accessible by authorised users. For example, a company could connect its Bristol, London and Birmingham offices with its own

private intranet.

IRC

Internet Relay Chat. A multi-user chat system. This is a feature of the Net which allows you to hold 'live' text conversations with other people on the same 'channel.'

ISDN

Integrated Services Digital Network. This is a digital alternative to current analogue phone lines. ISDN modems are already available, enabling its users to achieve much faster connection speeds.

ISP

Internet service provider. A company which sells connections to the Net. Compare with online service providers (OSPs) which provide an Internet connection in addition to their own exclusive members-only services such as chat forums, news services, and other assorted information.

Java

A programming language developed by Sun Microsystems that enables a programmer to include multimedia effects and increased interactivity within Web pages.

JPEG

Joint Photographic Experts Group. JPEG is another file format that can be viewed on the Web. The image is compressed, thus reducing the file size, for faster loading.

Kbps

Kilobits per second. This represents your modem speed; higher is better.

Leased line

A permanent phone line between two points on the Internet.

Links

A link, or hyperlink, acts as a bridge between separate Web pages. By clicking on a link you are taken to another Web page.

Mailing list

A list of people subscribed to a periodic electronic mailing (email) distribution on a particular topic. On the Net, as you'd expect, mailing lists include each subscriber's email address rather than postal ones.

Markup

Markup refers to the sequence of characters or other symbols that you insert at certain places in a text or word processing file to indicate how the file should look when it is printed or displayed or to describe the document's logical structure.

explained

easy-to-understand English!

INFO

Although we've done our best to explain the most common Net terminology, you're bound to come across ones not covered here. If this happens, a useful place to go is the Internet Language Dictionary at www.netlingo.com which gives full A-Z listings of all the terms

MHz

MegaHertz. The speed at which your computer's processor works. For example, 333MHz or 450MHz. This doesn't affect Net connection speed, alas.

Modem

Modulator/demodulator. A piece of equipment that connects computers to each other for sending communications via telephone lines. The modem converts the digital data of computers into analogue signals to send over the telephone lines, then changes it back into digital signals to be read by the computer on the other end. Modems are used for sending and receiving electronic mail, and also for surfing the Net.

MPEG

MPEG, or Motion Picture Experts Group, develops standards for digital video and digital audio compression. In Internet terms, you can download MPEG or MP3 files for near-CD quality audio.

Newsgroups

Discussion groups which are held over the Net. Also known as Usenet.

Newsreader

The software that enables you to read messages (or 'postings') that people have sent to newsgroups. Built into the popular Web browsers.

News server

The hardware that holds all the newsgroups you can access, usually based at your Internet service provider. If you've used DejaNews or HotBot to find the name of a newsgroup but can't find it when you look through your news server's list of available groups, you may be able to find it on a 'public access' server.

Offline

When your computer is not connected to the Internet.

Offline Browser

Software which downloads the content of Web pages onto your hard drive, so whole sites can then be viewed 'offline' at your convenience.

Online Service Provider (OSP)

A company which offers Internet access combined with its own interface and 'members-only' services, such as live chat rooms, message boards, online shopping malls and news feeds.

Packet

A packet refers to the unit of data routed between an origin and a

destination on the Internet. When any file (email message, HTML file, GIF file, URL request, and so forth) is sent from one place to another on the Internet, the Transport Control Protocol (TCP) layer of TCP/IP divides the file into sections that are an efficient size for routing. Each of these packets include the Internet address of the destination.

Ping

Ping is an Internet program that lets you verify that a particular Internet address exists and can accept requests.

Plug-and-play

Plug-and-play refers to when you can plug a device into a computer and have the computer recognise that the device is there.

Plug-ins

In the context of the Web, these are 'extensions' to your browser which enhance its functionality. Plug-ins enable you to play sound files or animations, for example.

PoPs

Points of Presence. Refers to the modems which you dial into to connect to the Internet.

POP3

Post Office Protocol 3. The most recent version of a standard protocol for receiving email. POP3 is a client-server protocol in which email is received and held for you by your Internet server. Periodically, you check your mailbox on the server and download any new mail.

Portal

Web site offering editorial 'channels' and Net services, such as search facilities, free email addresses, online chat and value-added extras.

Push technology

A mechanism for sending information to your Web browser from a Web site at pre-arranged intervals. You state what information you are interested in and how often you want it updated and the Web site transmits it to you accordingly.

Router

A special-purpose computer (or software package) that handles the connection between two or more networks. Routers spend all their time looking at the destination addresses of the packets passing through them and deciding which route to send them on.

Search Engine

Web sites which contain powerful search facilities which let users find other pages on a specific subject.

Server

A computer that provides a service to other computers on a network such as the Internet. For example, a Web server obtains, or 'serves' Web pages and other files as requested, sending them to the browser.

Shareware

Shareware refers to software that is distributed free on a trial basis with the understanding that the user will probably pay for it later.

SMTP

Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. A common protocol for sending email across the Internet, gradually being replaced by POP3.

Spider

Also known as a 'webcrawler', a spider is a program that visits Web sites and reads their pages and other information in order to create entries for a search engine index.

Streaming Media

Streaming media is streaming video with sound. The best thing about streaming media is that a Web user does not have to wait to download a large file before seeing the video or hearing the sound. Instead, the media is sent in a continuous stream and is played as it arrives. The user needs a player, which is a special program that uncompresses and sends video data to the display and audio data to speakers. One of the most popular is RealNetworks' RealPlayer.

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The common language that all computers connected to the Internet use in order to communicate with each other. No TCP/IP, no Internet!

Telnet

The Telnet protocol allows you to use the Internet to type to another user's computer much as if you were sitting in front of it. This is known as 'terminal emulation.' Examples of Telnet services include searchable databases, bulletin boards and real-time chatlines.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator. This refers to the characters that specify the address of a resource on the Web. It could be a Web page in the form of <http://> or an FTP site in the form of <ftp://>.

USB

USB (Universal Serial Bus) is a plug-and-play interface between a computer and add-on devices (such as audio players, joysticks, keyboards, telephones, scanners, and printers). With USB, a new device can be added to your computer without having to add an adapter card or even having to turn the computer off.

Usenet

Usenet is basically a collection of notes on various subjects that have been posted to servers on a worldwide network. Each subject collection of posted notes is known as a newsgroup.

Virtual Hosting

On the Internet, virtual hosting is the provision of Web server and other services so that a company or individual don't have to buy and maintain their own Web server host with a line to the Internet.

A virtual hosting provider is sometimes also called a Web or Internet 'space provider.'

VRML

Virtual Reality Modelling Language. A programming language which is used to create the illusion of 3D objects for on-screen virtual reality environments. The computer shows an apparently three-dimensional object from a certain position, and then creates the illusion of movement by gradually changing the viewpoint.

Web browser

A program installed in your computer's memory that reads, or 'browses' Web pages. A full Internet connection is needed for them to browse the Web. Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator are the most popular Web browsers, now available in 'suites' along with many other essential Internet programs.

Webcasting

Webcasting (push technology) refers to the prearranged updating of news, weather, or any other selected information on a computer user's desktop interface. This is achieved through periodic, and generally unobtrusive, transmission over the World Wide Web (which includes the use of the Web protocol on intranets).

Web ring

A Web ring is a way of interlinking related Web sites so that you can visit each site one after the other, eventually (if you keep going) returning to the first Web site.

ONLY
£4.95
INCLUDING
POSTAGE
& PACKING

BACK ISSUES

Increase your Net know-how by adding to your PRACTICAL INTERNET collection. Many issues, packed with features and reviews, are still available for just £4.95 each



Free ISPs – we find the fastest and most reliable. Plus CD-ROM with software to speed up the Net and over 256-page book to answer all your technical queries.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



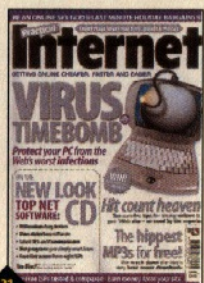
Test your ISP – great tips for discovering whether you're getting the best service. Also, advice to make your site a place of wonder rather than woe.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Loads of crafty ways to cut back on your phone bills. Still strapped for cash? Then give a free ISP a try – we round up over 25 free service providers.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Learn how to fix common Net hassles without having to phone a support desk, plus how to protect against Net viruses and a look at the PIII processor.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Make your PC a lean, mean, virus-busting machine with our tips and hints. Also, how to make your Web site as busy as spaghetti junction.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



20 of the UK's top free ISPs get tested for speed, reliability and tech support. Also, how to protect your computer against the Y2K Bug. With free HTML book.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



How to cash in on ISP giveaways, wipe out junk mail, watch live sports coverage over the Internet and make money at online share dealing.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Make sure your online searches come up trumps every time by following our 101 tips. We also test alternative browsers and tell you how to avoid Net scams.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Flirt, gossip, natter and seduce: the complete guide to chatting and meeting pals online. Also, Net millionaires reveal how they got rich and how you can too!
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p



Read our report on ISPs offering 0800 Net access. Are they any good? Will it revolutionise the Internet? Find out here. Also, how to set up shop online.
• Price: £4.95 incl. p&p

Call our credit card hotline on 01202 200200

PRACTICAL INTERNET BACK ISSUES ORDER FORM

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR CHOICE
ISSUE 23 ONWARDS: £4.95 INC. P&P

ISSUE 1	☐	ISSUE 21	☐
ISSUE 4	☐	ISSUE 22	☐
ISSUE 7	☒	ISSUE 23	☐
ISSUE 8	☐	ISSUE 24	☐
ISSUE 9	☐	ISSUE 25	☒
ISSUE 10	☐	ISSUE 26	☐
ISSUE 11	☐	ISSUE 27	☒
ISSUE 12	☐	ISSUE 28	☒
ISSUE 13	☐	ISSUE 29	☐
ISSUE 14	☒	ISSUE 30	☒
ISSUE 15	☒	ISSUE 31	☐
ISSUE 16	☒	ISSUE 32	☐
ISSUE 17	☒	ISSUE 33	☐
ISSUE 18	☐	ISSUE 34	☐
ISSUE 19	☐	ISSUE 35	☐
ISSUE 20	☐	ISSUE 36	☐

TOTAL £.....

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name:
Address:
.....
.....
Postcode:
Telephone No:
Email:

METHOD OF PAYMENT (NO CASH PLEASE)

Please indicate your choice of method

☐ CHEQUE Please make payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd.

☐ CREDIT CARD

☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch

Card number:

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□ | □□□□ Switch only

Expiry date: □□/□□

Issue No. □□ (Switch only)

Signature:

WHERE TO SEND THE FORM

Please return the coupon, or a photocopy of it, (together with your cheque/PO made payable to Paragon Publishing Ltd.) in an envelope to the following address:
Practical Internet Back Issues, Paragon Publishing Ltd, FREEPOST (BH 1255), Bournemouth BH1 2TA. It won't cost you a penny in stamps if posted within the UK. You can, of course, call our credit card hotline on 01202 200200 (answerphone after 6pm) or fax us direct with your order on 01202 200217.

Take the plunge!

Start your own Internet Business today!



Get
**ONE
MONTH
FREE!**
(promo code:
pint-3507)

yourname.co.uk or yourname.com
Fully loaded **WEB SITE**
for just £11.95/month*

- 50 MB disk space
- 2 GB traffic/month
- 10 mailboxes
- domain name registration (yourname.co.uk or yourname.com)
- Frontpage™ 2000 server extensions
- web based control panel, etc.

30 day money back guarantee!

Speed - Service - Reliability

That's why we are trusted by customers in over 70 countries.
Your web site is in safe hands.

Make money on the net NOW!

Resellers and Affiliates wanted!



www.netnation.co.uk
Email: sales@netnation.co.uk
Freephone: 0800 028 3639

*Prices exclude naming authority fees. Setup fee: £29.95 for the EZsite web site package. Prices and features subject to change without notice. All trademarks are the property of the respective owners.

CLASSIFIED: MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL

125

Join Abel Gratis and take your pick:

cardiff-arms-park.org.uk murrayfield.org.uk lansdowne-road.org.uk twickenham.org.uk
wembley.org.uk eeze.org.uk monica.org.uk exterminator.co.uk infomen.co.uk
brewers.org.uk infoman.org.uk terminator.org.uk 2-cool.co.uk sweetness.co.uk
whodunit.co.uk theboozier.co.uk sportyforty.co.uk myhouse.org.uk myhome.org.uk

mywork.org.uk
mycomputer.org.uk

jock.org.uk
taffy.org.uk

paddy.org.uk
theoffice.org.uk

amorous.co.uk
loveable.co.uk

far2sexy.co.uk
2sexy4u.co.uk

crazy4u.co.uk
abelgratis.co.uk

scotmall.co.uk
omnia.co.uk

animal-lovers.co.uk
2sxy.com

st-andrew.net
st-david.net

st-patricks.net
st-george.net

1to1.org
shadylady.org

saltire.org
abelgratis.net

abelgratis.com
estates.co.uk

estate-agency.org.uk
travelagency.org.uk

news-agency.org.uk
law-firm.co.uk

the-riverside.org.uk st-james-park.org.uk

city-ground.org.uk hillsborough.org.uk

white-hart-lane.org.uk stamford-bridge.org.uk

upton-park.org.uk selhurst-park.org.uk

celtic-park.org.uk librox.org.uk

easter-road.org.uk tynecastle.org.uk

hampden-park.org.uk
carryout.co.uk

fruity.org.uk company.org.uk the-works.org.uk

the-fullmonty.co.uk phantom-menace.org.uk

justbrowsing.com
& many more.....

Abel Gratis

Support: Every day 09.00-23.00

Free Internet for life

100% UK Local Call Coverage

Sign up by going to
<http://www.abelgratis.com>

Email: sales@abelgratis.com

Tel:

0906 680 4444

Fax:

0906 557 4444

Support calls at only 25p a minute

See our software on the cover CD

Generate extra income.

Create client loyalty.

Become a FREE ISP.

Visit: www.isp-pdq.co.uk

regd-charity.org.uk

musician.org.uk

doktor.co.uk

photographer.org.uk

chef.org.uk

4ever.org.uk

unionjack.org.uk

trekkies.org.uk

love-shack.co.uk

mile-hi-club.co.uk

hanky-panky.org.uk

star-trooper.co.uk

oo7.org.uk

stunner.org.uk

funmail.org.uk

disco.org.uk

chit-chat.co.uk

old-trafford.org.uk

highbury.org.uk

villa-park.org.uk

ewood-park.org.uk

the-valley.org.uk

pittodrie.org.uk

highfieldroad.org.uk

pride-park.org.uk

the-dell.org.uk

goodisonpark.org.uk

elland-road.org.uk

filbert-street.org.uk

anfield.org.uk



Interesting Devices Ltd



Free Gift with orders over £50. Choice of PlayStation
Memory card or Flashing Keyring. Just quote PRIFREE

PSXAMP MP3 Adapter



MP3 & MPEG 3 are now the most searched for expressions on the internet. MP3 is a form of audio compression that can compress CD audio up to 10 times. Now you can store up to 12 hours of CD quality audio on a single CD. To enable you to play back MP3 files you need special software on your PC or you need expensive dedicated hardware. If you own a PlayStation, the PSXAMP will allow you play your MP3 CDs at a much cheaper price than other dedicated hardware. You can edit and save your own playlists to standard PlayStation memory cards.

For more information visit <http://psxamp.co.uk>

CopyALL 4.0

CopyALL 4.0 is a SCSI Interface that allows you to control your SCSI drives without the need for a PC. Simply fit your CD Reader and CD Recorder into an external case and the CopyALL will simplify the CD duplication process for you. It leaves your PC free for you to use for more important things. 4 operation modes: "Copy", "Test", "Safe-Copy" & "Scan".

<http://interesting-devices.com/copyall>



CD Recorders



No PC required. 4x Write speed. 8 speed version also available for additional cost. All quality brand CD Recorders and CD Readers including Sony, Plexor, Yamaha etc. Can also be connected to your PC if you need to compile your own data (PC SCSI card required). Supplied with CD Recording software for the PC. Based on the above Copy ALL SCSI interface

Visit our websites below for many more Interesting Devices
100s of devices for PlayStation, Nintendo, Dreamcast and
other electronic goods. Some too Hot to mention here.

Postage and Packaging = £2 small items £10 large items

Phone: 024 76339805 Fax: 024 76339804

Voice lines open
10am-4pm Mon-Fri

Interesting Devices
24 The Crescent
Keresley End
Coventry
CV7 8JT

<http://interesting-devices.com>
<http://dvd-world.co.uk>
<http://psxamp.co.uk>
<http://z64.co.uk>





You have the cover CD,
so now you can

Join conX today...
communicating with conX

- free** unlimited Internet Access
- free** access to conX's on-line service
- no** on-line charges
- 100%** nationwide local call access
- free** 20Mb web space
- free** sub-domain and unlimited email addresses
- *someone@yourchoice.conX.co.uk*
- fast** access speeds up to 128kbps
- free** access to news servers

National Rate Support Line



www.conX.co.uk



Wholly owned by Gillett Multimedia (est. 1993) www.gmm.co.uk

We've got it covered!

The sensible way to register your domain

www.ukdomains.net

The safest place to host your site

www.ukhosting.net

The superb design solution

www.ukwebdesign.net

The secure way to sell your products online

www.ukecommerce.net

The simplest way to get your club on the net

www.ukclubnames.net

Gillett Multimedia, Alexander House, 38 Fore Hill, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4ZA

01353 665577

www.names-online.co.uk

.co.uk

£30 + VAT

.com

£65 + VAT

NO HIDDEN COSTS

£9.95
per month

WEBSpace
made easy

100Mb Virtual Server, www.yourname.co.uk, POP3 email
unlimited email addresses, announcement lists, full CGI-bin
graphical statistics, RealAudio, Miva, MySQL, PHP3 support
Same Day Setup, Virtual Control Panel & Technical Support

**CONTROL
EVERYTHING
from the WEB
VIRTUAL
CONTROL
PANEL**

Setup & read your
email online, auto
install guest books,
WWW boards &
many other scripts,
manage files, access,
mailing lists, auto-
responders & more...

**CALL 0115
9170000**

WebFusion
www.webfusion.co.uk
info@webfusion.co.uk
PRICES EXCL VAT & DOMAIN FEES

MODEM DIAL

FULL
ACCESS

09068617121

SENSATIONS BBS

Fast, Easy, Anonymous BBS with over 100,000 Programs.

On-line Everything for your Business or Pleasure needs.

All Speeds Up to 38,400. Full Access & Unlimited Downloads.

CALLS CHARGED AT 50p PER MIN. P.O.BOX 107, MANCHESTER M7 4PN

Save ££££s
www.cheaptobacco.com

Warning: Cigarette smoking can seriously damage your health

Make a name for yourself

Domain Names £19^{pa}

Includes all Naming Committee charges
FREE lifetime e-mail forwarding **FREE** lifetime web forwarding

We beat all quotes Call for details

Just add VAT, **NO** other hidden costs!
 Hosting over 15000 domains for over 5000 clients
 including Virgin Net, Otel and Samsung



www.nicnames.co.uk

0800 731 4780

WEB HOSTING FOR RESELLERS

Fast UK-hosted web space, www.yourname.co.uk and www.anothername.co.uk included. Extra virtual servers only £25 per year. Each VS includes: Unlimited email forwarding, mailing lists & autoresponders, full graphical stat logs, anonymous FTP, full CGI-bin plus pre-installed scripts, FTP & Telnet access, RealAudio as standard, support for Miva, MySQL, PHP3, SSI and Java servlets, individual Virtual Control Panel, same day setup

Ideal for Web Designers, Internet Consultants, Entrepreneurs, etc

£50 OR **£500**
 per month per year

1Gb
 WEBSpace
500
 POP3 ACs

CALL 0115
9170000

WebFusion
 www.webfusion.co.uk
 info@webfusion.co.uk
PRICES EXCL VAT & DOMAIN FEES

Log on NOW to get your **FREE** LobbyShares

www.THELOBBY.co.uk

At The Lobby, we aim to offer you top quality products, at some of the best prices on the Net. Including, PlayStation, Nintendo, Dreamcast, Gameboy, PC Software and Hardware, Videos, DVD, Music CDs, Sports Equipment, Branded Clothing, Fitness Gear, Web Space, Domain Names, Batteries, Gifts, Special Offers, News, Reviews, Updates and a whole lot more.

Be a part of our success
get your LobbyShares for FREE Now!!

The Lobby Online Limited, PO Box 99, Selby, YO8 8YE
 Email: info@thelobby.co.uk Tel: 01757 229201 Fax: 01757 229194

FREE

Domain name
 registration

FREE

100MB Webspace with
 hosting service package *plus...* **FREE**

Microsoft Frontpage
 Extensions

FREE
 Web Email Account

FREE
 POP3 Email Account -
 Unlimited Alias

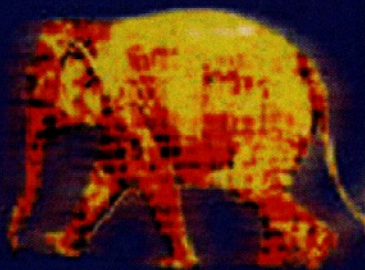
FREE
 Mail Forwarding

FREE
 Account Setup

FREE
 Bandwidth -
 155Mbs Connection

NEW Real Audio Server

Don't forget,
 apply now and take
 advantage of this BIG offer



order online

www.easyspace.com

DOMAIN REGISTRATION

£19.99

50Mb FREE Web Space

www.domain.co.uk

FREE Internet Access

FREE Unlimited e-mail

anymame@domain.co.uk

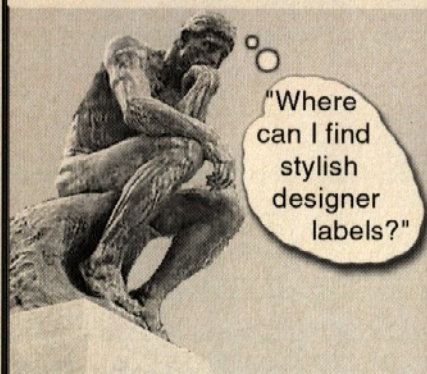
FREE Daily Web Statistics

Bulk Purchase Discounts

And Secure Form Options

0800 074 5182

www.freezone.co.uk



Designers Direct.com

The Webstore for Stylish Designer Clothing

www.DESIGNERSDIRECT.COM

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
UP TO 75% OFF USA RETAIL
DELIVERY IN 3-7 DAYS

One-Step Web Hosting for BUSINESS

all the features, none of the hassle

100Mb Fast UK-hosted web space

www.youname.co.uk or www.youname.com

POP3 email, unlimited email addresses, your own announcement lists and autoresponders.

Comprehensive graphical statistics, anon FTP, full CGI-bin plus pre-installed scripts, Telnet & FTP access with unlimited updates, RealAudio, Miva, MySQL, PHP3, SSI and Java servlets support, 2Gb monthly bandwidth allowance, secure server access, e-commerce enabled, technical support, Virtual Control Panel™

£199
+VAT P.A.

Includes Domain Name Registration Fees

30 day no-quibble Money Back Guarantee

Same Day Setup

CALL 0115 9170000

WebFusion
www.webfusion.co.uk
info@webfusion.co.uk
Seriously Easy

internet freedom

www.netfreedom.org

The London branch of the UK's leading anti-censorship campaign seeks volunteers for fund-raising, conference organisation, publicity, media relations, research, and Web development. Training can be given, but a commitment to free speech is essential.

Call Alan on 0966 283 668 any time or email volunteers@netfreedom.org.

MODEM DIAL

STRANGWAYS
B.B.S

Full Access in 2 minutes

09068408040

105,000 Programs On-Line · Live On-Line Chat
Gigs of Glamour Pics · Games, Business, Pleasure

Follow these 5 Simple Steps to Log On Using Windows

1, Go to the Accessories Menu and click on Hyperterminal.

2, Double Click on the "hyperterm" Icon.

3, Enter name "Strangeways" and press "OK."

4, Enter Phone Number that's above and press "OK"

5, Click On "Dial" Simple!!!!

CALLS CHARGED AT 50P PER MIN. CD INTERNATIONAL, PO BOX 107, MANCHESTER M7 3WZ.

MISSION INTERNET Web Site

Design and Management

www.mission-internet.co.uk

Practical Internet

Getting Online Cheaper, Faster & Easier

Paragon Publishing Ltd, Paragon House,
St Peter's Road, Bournemouth BH1 2JS
Tel: +44 (0)1202 299900
Fax: +44 (0)1202 299955
Email: pi@paragon.co.uk
Web: www.paragon.co.uk/pi

EDITOR Mark Newman
mnewman@paragon.co.uk
MANAGING EDITOR Geoff Harris
geoffh@paragon.co.uk
SENIOR SUB-EDITOR Jo Cole
pixie@paragon.co.uk
FEATURES EDITOR Paul Newman
pauln@paragon.co.uk
STAFF WRITER Alex Waddington
alexw@paragon.co.uk
ONLINE GAMING EDITOR Geoff Spick
geoffs@paragon.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS
Chris Ellison, Clive Parker, Steve Patient, James Seabright,
Martin Pipe, Roland Waddilove, Chris Web (photography)

GROUP ART EDITOR Claire Kendrick
clairek@paragon.co.uk
SENIOR DESIGNER Ross Andrews
rad@paragon.co.uk

ONLINE MANAGER Stuart Wynne
ssw@paragon.co.uk
ONLINE EDITOR Gavin Cloggie

ADVERTISING MANAGER Diana Monteiro
01202 200212
diana@paragon.co.uk
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES Lee Jensen (Sales Exec)
01202 200236
leej@paragon.co.uk
Paul Spokes (Sales Exec)
01202 200220
pauls@paragon.co.uk
ADVERTISING PRODUCTION Dave Osborne (Manager)
Jo James (Copy Controller)
Lorraine Troughton (Designer)
Jane Evans (Designer)

BUREAU MANAGER Chris Rees
SCANNING AND REPRO Liam O'Hara
CIRCULATION MANAGER Tim Harris

MARKETING MANAGER Monica Casal
monica@paragon.co.uk
INTERNATIONAL LICENSING Catherine Blackman
cathb@paragon.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1202 200205
Fax: +44 (0)1202 200235

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR Jane Hawkins
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Peter Cleall
CIRCULATION AND MARKETING DIRECTOR Kevin Petley
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Damian Butt
ART DIRECTOR Mark Kendrick
FINANCE DIRECTOR Trevor Bedford
MANAGING DIRECTOR Mark Simpson

SUBSCRIPTIONS Tel: +44 (0)1202 200200
Fax: +44 (0)1202 200217
Email: subs@paragon.co.uk
<http://pi.subs.net>
Annual rates:
UK: £36, Europe: £40, World: £46

PRINTED BY: Duncan Web Offset, Maidstone
DISTRIBUTED BY: Seymour International
First Floor
86 Newman Street
London W1P 3LD
Tel: 0171 396 8000

The makers of Practical Internet also produce:
Internet Made Easy, What's Online, Guide to AOL, Web Pages Made Easy, DVD Review and many other great reads

DISCLAIMER

Paragon Publishing cannot be held responsible for any unsolicited manuscripts/images. We retain full publishing rights over all articles and letters sent in for publication. Paragon Publishing cannot be held responsible for any problems with software supplied by third parties that appears on our cover-mounted CD-ROMs or similar promotions. All information is believed to be correct at time of going to press. Practical Internet recognises all copyrights and trademarks and tries to acknowledge the copyright holder where possible. Contact us if a copyright has not been acknowledged and oversights will be corrected.

Practical Internet: ISSN 1366-7661



Next month

GAME FOR A LAUGH

IT'S fast, it's fun, it's addictive! And it lets you challenge millions of other players from around the world. Internet gaming is more popular than ever before – but how exactly do you play online? Next month, we give you the low-down on how to get into online gaming

HAVE NET, WILL TRAVEL!

Ever wanted to surf the Net and check email while on the move or during your holidays? Next month, we tell you exactly how it's done in a special feature examining the costs and the hardware

BRIGHTEN UP YOUR BROWSER

Don't stick with the bland, boring interface of your existing Web browser – impress your friends by creating your very own custom look! In a special step-by-step guide, we explain how your browser can shine

Issue
38 on sale
10 February
2000

FREE
CD-ROM
with every
issue

DON'T MISS IT!

Guarantee a copy of PRACTICAL INTERNET every month by handing this form into your local newsagent.

Please reserve me a copy of Practical Internet (ISSN 1366-7661) priced £3.99 on a regular basis. Practical Internet is published 13 times a year.

Name

Address

.....Postcode

Phone Number.....

The next issue of PRACTICAL INTERNET is available on 10 February, 2000

Newsagent information: Practical Internet is published by Paragon Publishing Ltd (tel: 01202 299900, fax: 01202 299955, www.paragon.co.uk) and is available from your local wholesaler. Practical Internet is distributed by Seymour (tel: 01202 2999232) and is fully SOR.

Practical Internet
Getting Online Cheaper, Faster & Easier

FAQs

This month, we pull Daljit Dhaliwal away from the ITN cameras and put her under the FAQ spotlight

Name: Daljit Dhaliwal
Age: 37
Occupation: ITN
 Internet News
 Reader

Daljit Dhaliwal is a distinguished journalist and reporter who is currently the newsreader on ITN's World News for public television service. The program is broadcast across the US (reaching a massive 38 per cent of households), Japan and of course, the Internet, where you can catch all the latest broadcasts on www.itn.co.uk

HIGH FIVE

DALJIT'S DELECTABLE SITES

1

CNN

www.cnn.com



2

NBC News

www.nbcnews.com



3

New York Times

www.nytimes.com



4

NYPOST.COM

www.nypost.com



5

ITN

www.itn.co.uk



1. How long have you been surfing the Net?

About two and a half years. ITN's first major new media project was an election site, and I was curious to see what role the Internet would play in coverage and how it would be different to the way things were carried out on television.

2. How many hours do you spend on it each day?

It varies depending on what I'm looking for. I try to get on whenever I can – usually between recordings of World News for Public Television where possible.

3. What do you like most about the Net?

The sheer convenience of being able to get information on almost any subject with the minimum of fuss. In news, time is a valuable commodity, and the Internet really kicks in here because you can cut down on endless phone calls and wasted trips all over the place looking for what you want and still not find it.

4. What do you like least about the Net?

The jargon can be a bit off-putting, and some of the sites get on your nerves because they are hard to navigate.

5. What advantages do you think there are in getting news over the Internet as opposed to from TV?

You have access when you want, so there's no hanging around for the 'appointed' hour. You can take shortcuts to news on the Internet to fit in with your lifestyle by selecting what you want to watch, when you want to see it. It's also indispensable for keeping up with the very latest news.

6. What's the thinking behind ITN's Video On Demand service?

It was made specifically for world news and because it's interactive, you can either watch a full news programme from beginning to end like you would over the TV, or you can be your own director by using the menu in whatever order you want. Some people who watch stateside prefer this because they aren't home by, say 5:30pm, when it hits the air in New York. I recently had a fan letter from a couple in Miami who were moving to Spain. They wanted to know if the show was available there. No, it isn't – but it is available over the Internet!

7. Have you ever watched one of your own Web newscasts, if so what did you think?

Yes, I sometimes watch when I'm in America by dropping into Kinko's (multi-purpose chain-store for photocopying, faxing, Internet etc) at my convenience – it's open 24 hours. I thought the pictures could have been better – hopefully this will get change with the passage of time.

8. Do you send a lot of emails to people?

It's one of the ways in which I communicate. I usually tend to splurge when I'm organising a trip abroad.

9. Do you have a Web site of your own? If so what's on it?

No.

10. What's the latest entry to your Web browser bookmarks?

I've been planning a return trip to Miami. So the last one was www.miami.com.

11. If you had to put up a Web site about anything other than yourself what would it be about?

A discussion forum where people could exchange views on news programmes in their country.

12. Have you ever purchased anything over the Net? If so what was it and how much did it cost?

No, I'm yet to be enticed.

13. Do you ever chat online?

Yes, I had one on the ITN site – it was interesting to get direct feedback from people who watch world news and from users in general.

14. Would you ever date anyone you met on the Net?

The Internet is a great way of communicating – but I wouldn't conduct my personal life on it!

15. How should the Net be censored, if at all?

That's a complicated question especially if you are a journalist, because you are in the business of reporting all angles. But then again, if people surfed responsibly there wouldn't be any problems.

16. Some people think the Net makes us more isolated and anti-social. What do you think?

The Net is a world without borders – so it's difficult to see how you can feel isolated or anti-social if you have the world at your fingertips.

17. Name one positive thing you hope will happen to the Net over the next five years.

I'd like it to become more inclusive of people who feel left out of the 'revolution' because they can't afford it.

18. Name one negative thing that you hope won't happen to the Net over the next five years.

It doesn't get any more clogged than it is at the moment with junk mail.

19. How has the Net changed your life?

By opening up a whole new world.

20. Can your fans use the Net to keep up with what you're doing? If so how?

Yes, by watching World News for Public TV at www.itn.co.uk.



Searching Questions

A magnifying glass with a dark frame is positioned over a computer screen. The lens of the magnifying glass is focused on the URL 'www.mirago.co.uk', which appears as white text on a dark background. The background of the entire image is a colorful, abstract, and blurred pattern of yellow, orange, green, and blue, suggesting a digital or search environment.

www.mirago.co.uk

Mirago, the UK Search Engine

- High UK relevance
- Safer surfing for kids
- Advanced search features
- Up to date results
- Guides, News, TV, Sports...



Have you clicked yet?



FREE
EVENING
AND WEEKEND
INTERNET CALLS

So called 'free' Internet service providers give you free access to the net – but you are charged for every single Internet call you make. Whereas with ClaraNET, a monthly subscription of just £5.99 gives you 12 FREE HOURS of evening and weekend Internet call time.

For real Internet value, ClaraNET is right on the button.

ClaraNET

www.clara.net
0845 355 1000

- Unlimited email addresses
- 24 hr support line at local rates
- 50MB webspace